

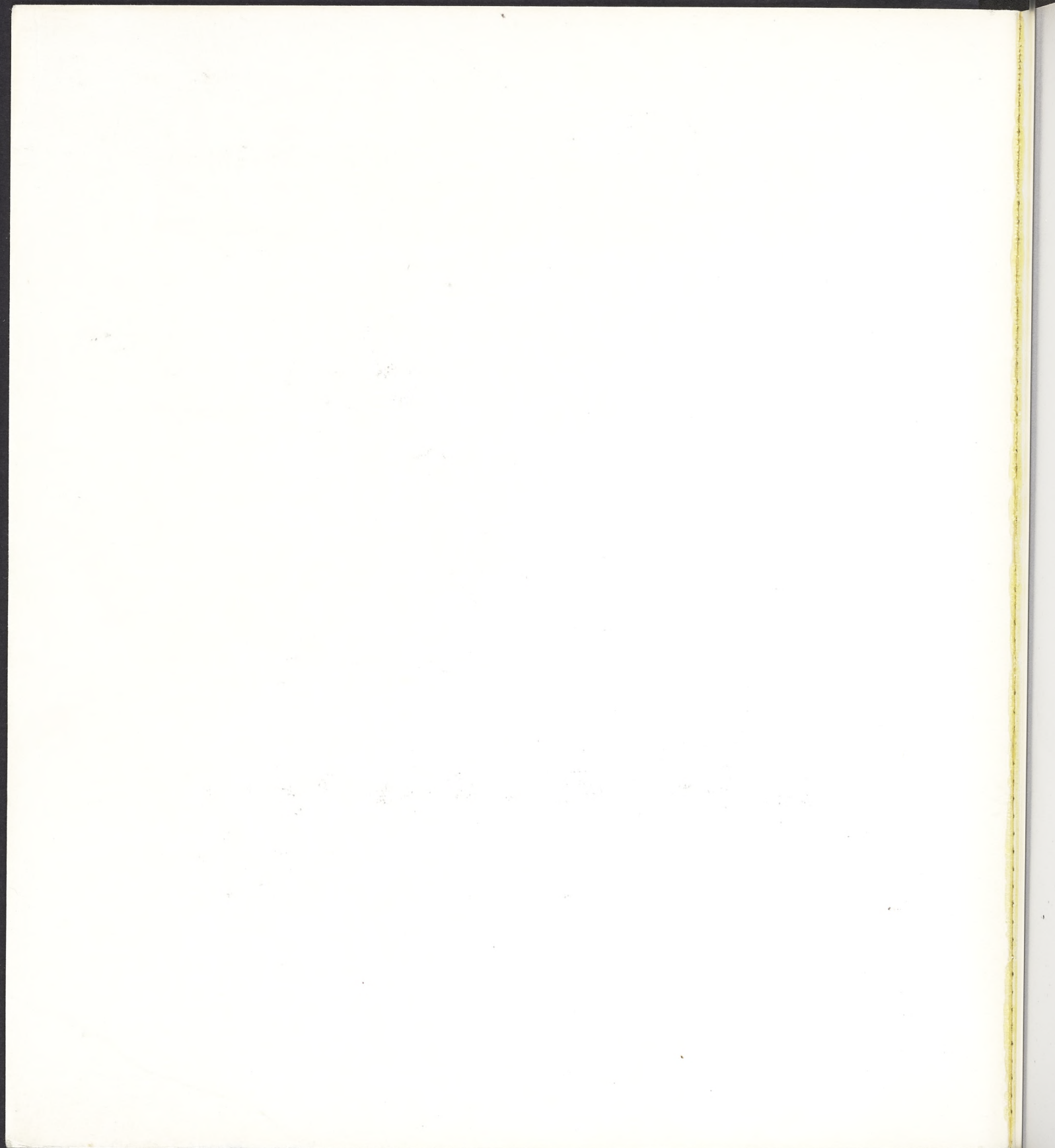
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A Mountain Guide by Clyde Hiatt & Bank Wright

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NAMOTH

A Mountain Guide by Clyde Hiatt & Bank Wright

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Published and manufactured in the United States of America by Mountain & Sea Publishing.

Library of Congress Catalogue Number 75-30386

"Take care of the earth and it will take care of you"



Mountain & Sea Book

The Authors

Clyde Hiatt has been teaching people how to ski for 15 years, 10 of which have been at Mammoth Mountain. He is a member of the Professional Ski Instructors Association and one of Mammoth's senior instructors. He has skied every run, trail, chute and slope imaginable. He knows and loves Mammoth Mountain. His experience and expertise is an invaluable ingredient to this book.

Bank Wright is both author and publisher of Mountain and Sea books. He brings to this work a background of research, photography, and 15 years of recreational skiing. The combination of Bank's publishing expertise and Clyde's knowledge of the mountain have produced a most informative and useful guide to skiing on Mammoth Mountain.

Additional books may be ordered from
Mountain & Sea
1803 S. Vermont
Los Angeles, CA 90006

How to use this book

Mammoth is a massive, highly complex mountain. To better understand its intricate system of runs and lifts, the book divides the mountain into the following four sections:

Main Lodge Area	page 15
New Lodge Area	page 43
Cornice Area	page 75
Backside Area	page 95

Each section begins with a map followed by a detailed photographic and word description of each and every run found in that area.

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During the early years of skiing at Mammoth, the social activity centered around "the snakepit" (building at far right). Here skiers would gather to share tales and soak up the sun. At that time, few ever dreamed of skiing the Cornice (pictured at top left). Photo courtesy of Gary Berger, Mammoth Lakes.

The Early Years...

Like many ski resorts, Mammoth began as a mining camp. In 1878 three small towns (Pine City, Mill City, and Mammoth City) were established near the base of Mammoth Mountain in the hopes of mining the gold and silver buried nearby. But as time passed and the mining operations slowly declined, the three little towns on the mountain ceased to be.

It wasn't until the early 1920's that the Mammoth area again gained popularity. But this time it wasn't for gold. It was for summer recreation. Camping and fishing were beginning to lure tourists out of Los Angeles and into the high Sierras. Snow skiing at this time was virtually an unknown sport. Mammoth was strictly a summer resort. Only a few hardy souls braved the long, cold winters on Mammoth Mountain.

By the late 1930's the area was beginning to grow. Buildings and businesses were popping up to accomodate the growing summer crowd. Highway 395 extended up from Los Angeles feeding Mammoth a steady stream of visitors. It wasn't until 1937 that highway 203 was finally opened linking the town with the main highway.

Yet with all this progress, Mammoth was still only a summer resort. Winter was long and severe and as yet, there was no reason to stay. It was not until Dave McCoy introduced snow skiing on Mammoth Mountain that the area finally became a year round resort.

Skiing...

The history of skiing on Mammoth Mountain is long and colorful. But it didn't really begin at Mammoth. It all started back in 1936 when Dave McCoy, a onetime Los Angeles hydrographer, began operating a small rope in Gray's meadow a few miles west of Independence, California. It was only one small tow, but skiing in the Sierras had begun

A few years later, Dave moved his operation north to McGee Creek. Here, with an \$85.00 automobile engine as the muscle, McCoy hauled skiers up McGee's treeless slopes. By design, the rope tow was portable and wherever the snow was best that's where the lift went.

The snow always seemed better just up the road. So in 1941, with tow in hand, McCoy again moved north. This time onto towering Mammoth Mountain. That Thanksgiving, a crowd of over 250 skiers kept the little lift working overtime. Little did anyone realize that Mammoth Mountain was on its way to becoming one of the largest ski facilities in the entire United States.



Mammoth is well named. It is truly a massive mountain towering over 11,000 feet above sea level. It is made up of a number of smaller peaks (middle of photo) each serviced by a chairlift and each providing a variety of skiable terrain



The Mountain

Mammoth is a massive mountain towering 11,053 feet above sea level, and with a vertical drop of nearly 3000 feet. The skiing terrain varies tremendously with all kinds of runs for any type skier. Generally, the slopes near the bottom of the mountain are gradual and only slightly pitched — good for novice through intermediate skiers. The closer you get to the summit the steeper the runs become. Mammoth culminates at the Cornice where some of the steepest faces and chutes in all North America can be skied.

If the mountain has a drawback its probably that it gets too much snow. Mammoth is located in a low point of the Sierras called "The San Joaquin Channel". Approaching storms tend to funnel into this channel and then stall. For days large amounts of snow will fall on Mammoth while only a few miles away it will be clear and sunny. In 1952 there was so much snow that the lifts had to be shut down. One February storm that year dumped 14 feet of snow at one time. And few will forget the winter of '69 when over 40 feet of snow fell. Snow depth is rarely a problem.

All this snow helps give Mammoth one of the longest ski seasons in the country. Skiing usually starts around Thanksgiving and lasts well into June and July. Many professionals anxious to get a headstart on the season begin their preparation at Mammoth.



The Main Lodge (pictured above) serves as the center of activity for those skiing the Main Lodge Area. It is a far cry from the "snake pit" as seen on page 4.

Easiest Way Down...

The question is often asked, "What's the easiest way down?" Skiers are constantly following friends to so-called easy runs, then find that they have to traverse all the way to the bottom. For those who find themselves in this situation, the following information will be helpful. Each description represents the easiest way of getting from the top of a chair to the bottom of that same chair.

From the top of Chair 1 . . . Ski over to the Midway Chalet. From here follow St. Moritz down to the Main Lodge.

From the top of Chair 2 . . . Ski Mambo all the way to the bottom.

From the top of Chair 3 . . . Ski off the backside and into Saddle Bowl. At the bottom of Saddle Bowl bear right and back to Chair 3. Should the backside be closed you have no choice but to ski down the face.

From the top of Chair 4 . . . Ski Roller Coaster. It's the easiest and most direct.

From the top of Chair 5 . . . Ski Upper Downhill, then bear left onto Upper Solitude. Continue on Upper Solitude until it ends at Chair 5.

From the top of Chair 9 . . .
Ski Scorpion. It's the easiest.

From the top of Chair 10 . . . Follow the Come Back Trail to Over Easy. Ski Over Easy down to Chair 10.

From the top of Chair 12 . . . Ski down White Bark Ridge. Then follow the Summer Road to Chair 12.

From the top of Chair 14 . . . Ski Red's Lake Run. If that's too steep follow the Summer Road.

From the top of Chair 16 . . . Ski over to the top of Roller Coaster. Ski down Roller Coaster until signs point to Lower Downhill. Ski Lower Downhill back to the New Lodge.

From atop the Cornice . . . The easiest way off the Cornice is to ski down the Backside. Starting from the gondola building, ski west along the top of the Cornice until Summer Road begins on your left. Follow Summer Road all the way to the top of Chair 14. From here ski either Red's Lake Run or continue on the Summer Road to the bottom.

Rating System...

Each run in this book has been rated and appears after the run's name. This rating refers to the recommended level of skiing ability required to safely ski down that slope. The six levels of skiing ability are as follows:

Beginner . . . A first-time skier. He has never been on skis or ridden a lift. His first day is spent familiarizing himself with his skis, learning to walk, and wedge turn. This stage is usually passed in an hour or so.

Novice . . . Can execute wedge turns linked by a traverse on gentle slopes. He is competent in walking, climbing and stopping. He can control his speed and direction.

Intermediate . . . Proficient with skidding turns and the controlled sideslip. Has control over his skis.

Advanced Intermediate . . . A good parallel skier. Can ski most runs on hardpack snow. Has trouble with steep and bumpy slopes.

Advanced . . . A proficient parallel skier. Can ski all runs on either hardpack or powder snow. Needs work on technique and more experience to become an expert.

Expert . . . A master parallel skier. Can ski any run, at any speed, in any snow condition (powder, bumps, or crud). There are very few expert skiers.

Ski Patrol...

The Ski Patrol is a vital link in the operation of Mammoth Mountain. The lives and well-being of the skiing public rests in its hand. Some of the Ski Patrol's duties and responsibilities are as follows:

Avalanche control

After a snowfall, the Patrol is responsible for clearing the ski area of all avalanche danger. By using such tools as recoilless rifles, pneumatic cannons and hand charges, the Patrol is usually able to have the mountain open and safe before you've had your first cup of coffee.

First Aid

It is the duty of the Ski Patrol to render first aid to anyone injured on the hill. Each patrolman is qualified in advanced first aid as well as being a strong, experienced skier.

Traffic & Line Control

To keep ski traffic moving in a safe manner and controlling lift-lines is yet another responsibility of the Ski Patrol.

Note: To get help on the mountain, go or have someone else go, to the nearest mountain employee (lift operator, instructor, etc). Tell of the accident and its exact location. Within seconds a patrolman will be on his way.

Avalanches...

Few skiers ever think about getting caught in an avalanche. But they can happen and they do kill. The chances of one occurring within a ski area boundary are slight. It is a major responsibility of both the Ski Patrol and the Forest Service to make sure the slopes are free of any avalanche danger. For this reason, skiers don't have to worry, but they should be aware of the potential danger and know what to do in case of an emergency.

If you are caught in a slide:

- Ski diagonally off to the side.
- Call out so others can track your descent.
- Get rid of poles, skis, backpack, etc. They will pull you under.
- Make swimming motions trying to stay on top.
- As you come to a stop, get your hands in front of your face to clear a breathing space in the snow.
- Above all, remain calm until help arrives. Panic may itself cause death.

If you see another caught in a slide:

- Watch where the victim goes.
- Go in to the spot where you last saw him and mark that spot.
- Search the surface in the fall-line below where you last saw him.
- Don't leave to get help. Better to spend time looking.
- If not found on surface probe with poles or sticks below where victim was last seen.

Top right Mammoth ski patrolmen take aim at the Cornice in an attempt to knock down a large building of snow.

Bottom right By using tools like the one pictured above, the patrol is able to clear the mountain of all avalanche danger. Slides like the one at bottom right can be controlled without danger to the skiing public.



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One thing Mammoth has plenty of is snow. The ski season usually begins around Thanksgiving and last well into May. Skiing in June is not unusual.

Lodge to Lodge...

Mammoth Mountain is skied from two locations: the Main Lodge, and the New Lodge (Chairs 7 & 8). The question is often asked as to what is the easiest route between the two lodges. The following directions will help:

Main Lodge to New Lodge

Start with Chair 6. From the top of 6 ski Over Easy all the way to the bottom of Chair 10. From the top of 10, start down Roller Coaster. About one-third of the way down Roller Coaster bear right onto Lower Downhill. Ski Lower Downhill to the New Lodge.

New Lodge to Main Lodge

Start with Chair 16. From the top of 16 ski the Come Back Trail all the way to the bottom of Chair 2. Go up 2. From the top of 2 ski St. Moritz down to the Main Lodge.

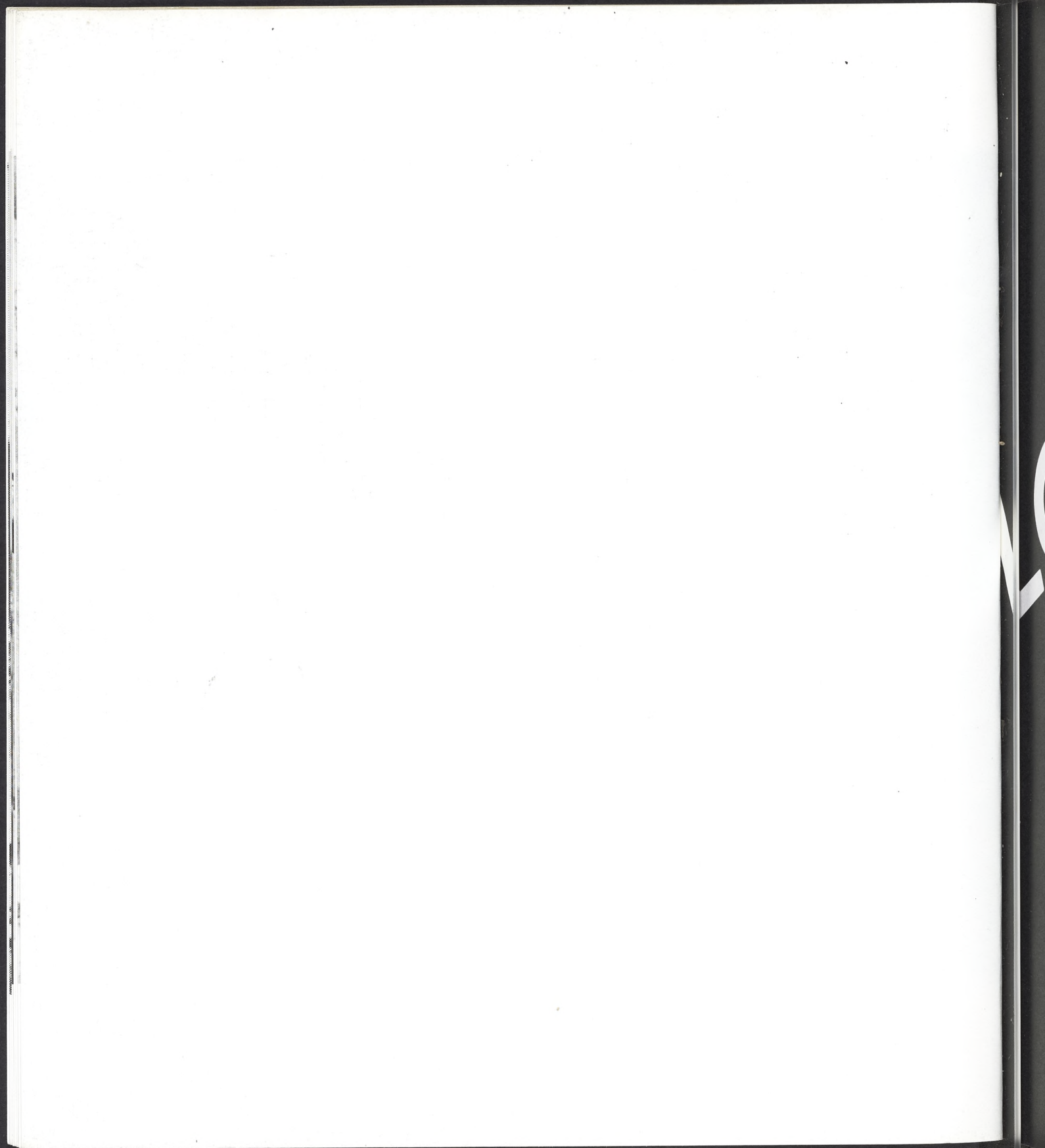
Crowd Avoidance...

At times you may encounter long lift lines on Mammoth Mountain. Weekends are the worst with the largest crowds occurring between 10:30 - 12:00 a.m. and 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. The following tips will be helpful in avoiding long waits in line.

- Get up early. Be ready to ski when the lifts open.
- Eat lunch early or late. Avoid the noon hour rush.
- Avoid the popular chairs at peak hours.
- Be willing to move. If a lift is crowded, move to another. Never stand in the same line twice.
- Save energy for the late afternoon. The mountain is usually wide-open by that time.



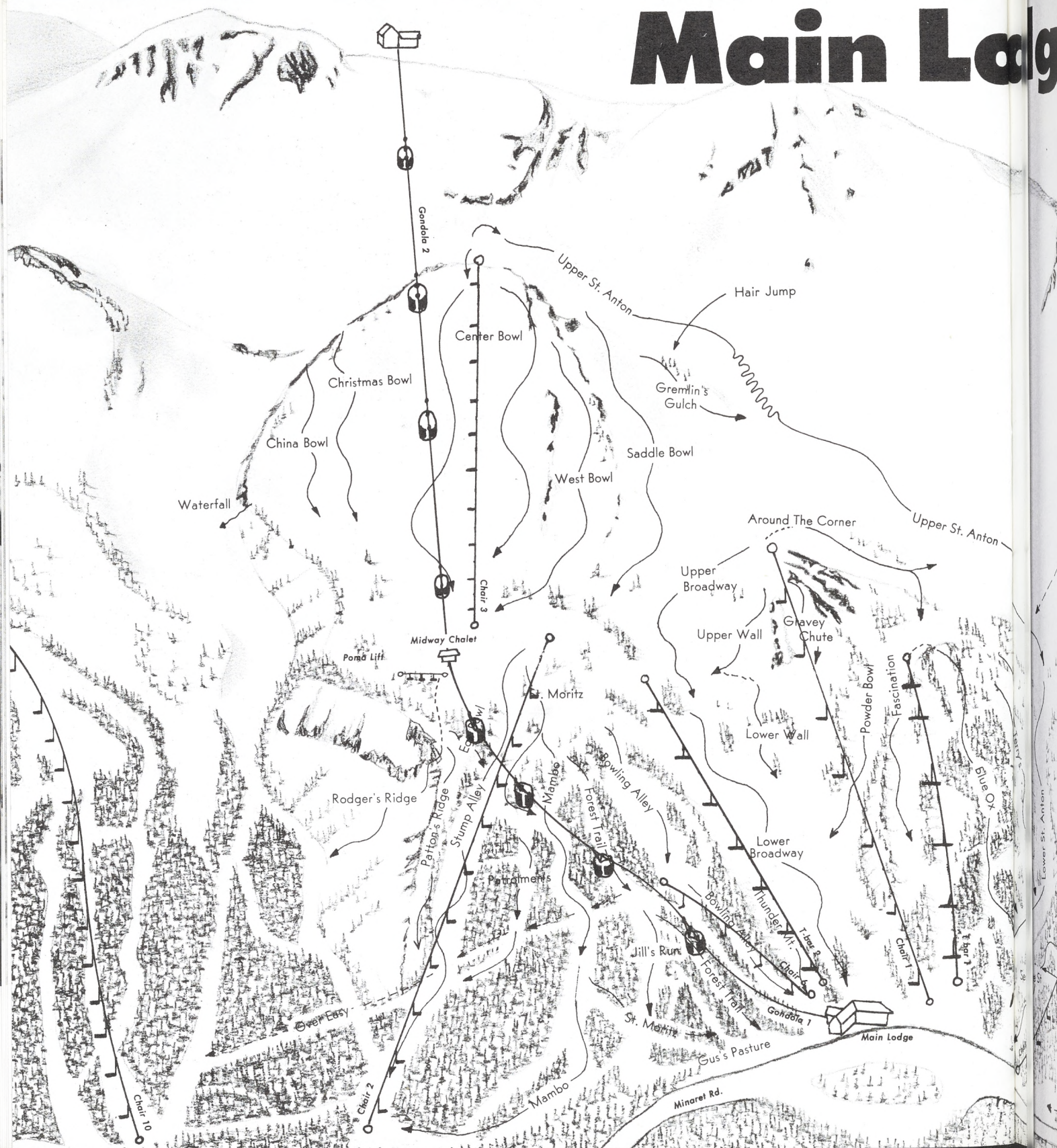
Many of the runs on Mammoth Mountain are wide and open like the one pictured above. If one area of the mountain happens to be crowded there is always another just minutes away.



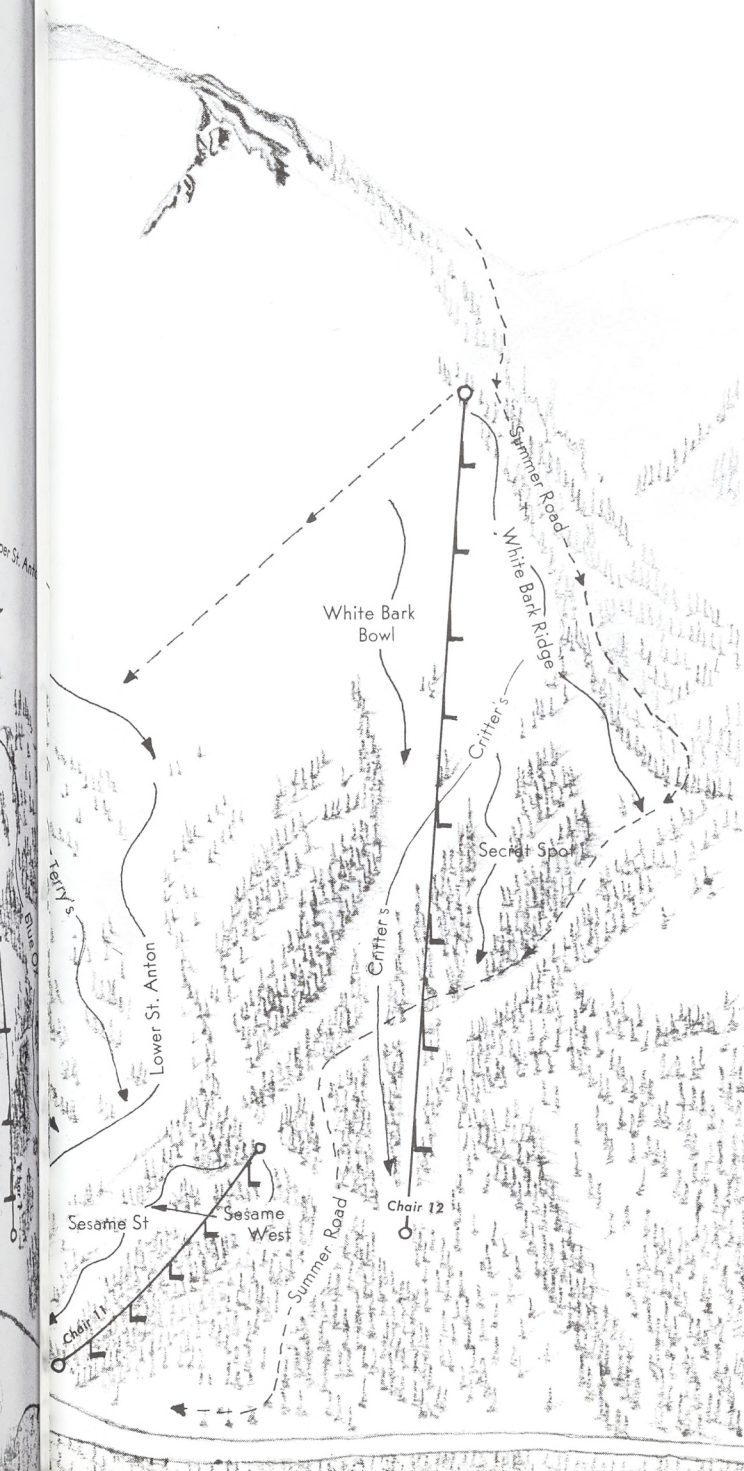
Main Lodge Area



Main Lodge



Lodge Area



When Mammoth Mountain was first opened for skiing, the Main Lodge Area was where the skiing started. Broadway was one of the first developed runs and from here skiing branched out in all directions. Today, the majority of Mammoth skiers still can be found on the lifts and runs servicing the area.

The Main Lodge Area is massive as the map on opposite page indicates. It covers from White Bark Ridge on the northwest to Patton's Ridge on the east and from the Main Lodge up to, and including the front and backside of Chair 3.

During storms this section takes the full brunt of the weather. And although the lifts rarely shut down, it can get so uncomfortable that many skiers prefer to head for the more protected slopes around the New Lodge.



White Bark Ridge separates the Main Lodge Area from the Backside Area. Skier (bottom right) is considering one of the many jumps. The northwest end of the Cornice is in the background.

WHITE BARK RIDGE . . . for advanced-intermediate skiers

Patrol rating: More difficult
Vertical drop: 600 feet
Length: 2000 feet

A fun and exciting place to ski. The gentle, rolling terrain is covered with small moguls, hoop-ti-doots, and wind-ridges. Those interested in jumping will find this run most challenging. At the bottom, the ridge joins Summer Road for an easy cruise back to Chair 12.

SUMMER ROAD

A long, twisting, machine road extending from the top of the Cornice all the way to the Main Lodge. During winter it serves as both an access path for skiers, and as a means for moving equipment up and down the mountain. See maps for its exact route.

SECRET SPOT . . . for advanced-intermediate skiers

Patrol rating: More difficult
Vertical drop: 500 feet
Length: 1500 feet

A short, seldom'skied, powder run that starts along White Bark Ridge and ends on Summer Road. The upper half consists of a small, moderately pitched bowl that quickly funnels into a heavily wooded area. Here, large trees demand utmost concentration and control. Once through the trees, the slope opens slightly before intersecting Summer Road.

Caution: Secret Spot is a powder run and is best the day of or the day after a storm. Once the new snow has had a chance to settle it rapidly turns to junk, and will remain so until the next snowfall.

WHITE BARK BOWL . . . for advanced-intermediate skiers

Patrol rating: More difficult
Vertical drop: 550 feet
Length: 1100 feet

A wide, moderately pitched bowl located to the left and near the top of Chair 12. The run offers good intermediate skiing in all snow conditions. Its easy pitch and broad width makes it ideal for those interested in acquainting themselves with powder skiing. At the bottom, the bowl intersects Critter's for the balance of the run back to Chair 12.

Note: White Bark Bowl is not heavily traveled and a good place to ski when the rest of the mountain is crowded.



White Bark Bowl is the wide-open slope just to the left of Chair 12.

CRITTER'S RUN . . . for intermediate skiers

Patrol rating: More difficult

Vertical drop: 200 feet

Length: 2000 feet

A long, easy trail that meanders through the trees next to Chair 12. The slope is mildly pitched with a few mogully sections here and there for excitement. It is an ideal run for intermediate skiers and a good place to ski when the rest of the mountain is crowded.

Note: The run is named for Ray Critton, a ski patrolman who lost his life while clearing the slopes of avalanche danger.

SESAME STREET . . . for novice skiers

Patrol rating: Easiest

Vertical drop: 250 feet

Length: 1750 feet

A wide, gently pitched slope serving as the main novice run on this side of the mountain. Here, new skiers can concentrate on learning or practicing fundamentals without fear of cross traffic or fast, inconsiderate skiers.

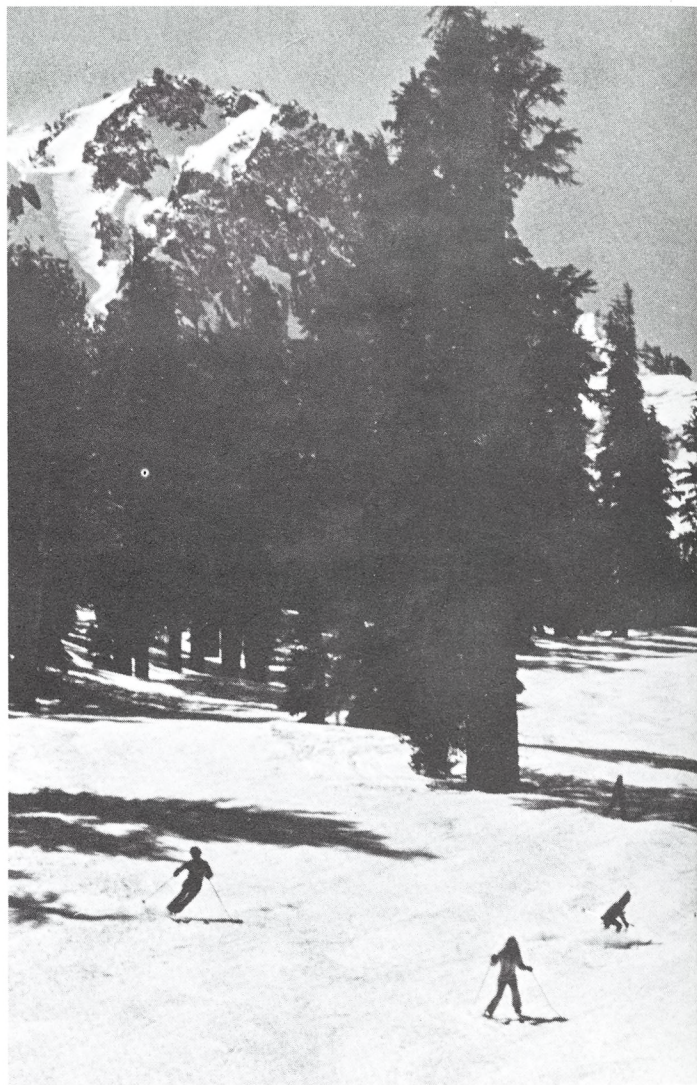
SESAME STREET WEST . . . for novice skiers

Patrol rating: Easiest

Vertical drop:

Length:

A short access trail located at the top, and slightly to the right of Chair 11. Its main purpose is to allow those sitting on the right hand side of the chair an easy and direct exit. After a short distance, the trail passes under the lift and joins Sesame Street for the balance of the run back to the chair.



Critter's Run wends its way amid towering pinetrees as it slopes toward Chair 12. Visible in upper left is Phillippe's — one of the steepest chutes on the mountain.



Sesame Street is ideal for novice skiers. Lots of room and only the slightest of pitch. Chair 11 is barely visible on right.



RACE STADIUM . . . for advanced skiers

Patrol rating: Most difficult

Vertical drop: 800 feet

Length: 2400 feet

The "Race Stadium" is part of the large slope located to the right of T-bar 1. The area consists of three runs: Blue Ox, Agee's, and Terry's Run. Each is long and steep beginning near the top of T-bar 1 and dropping into Lower St. Anton. Mammoth holds most of its slalom races here.

Notes:

1. Good powder skiing can be found in the trees next to the T-bar.
2. Terry's Run is named for Terry Smith a longtime instructor and race coach at Mammoth.

FASCINATION . . . for advanced skiers

Patrol rating: More difficult

Vertical drop: 700 feet

Length: 2800 feet

This slope truly deserves its name. It has everything an advanced skier looks for in a run. It's steep and consistent with a pitch that makes it challenging in both powder or hardpack snow. The bumps grow unusually large helping make it one of the best mogul runs on the mountain. Fascination is located right next to T-bar 1 which makes numerous runs in a short time possible.

Note: When slalom races are held at Mammoth the courses are usually set on Fascination.

GRAVEY CHUTE . . . for advanced skiers

Patrol rating: Most difficult

Vertical drop: 400 feet

Length: 600 feet

Pitch: Max. 35° Min. 30

A short, intensely steep chute located directly below Chair 1. Not only is it steep and challenging, but it gives good skiers a chance to exhibit their style and technique to those riding the lift.

Caution: A fall in this chute usually means a fast, twisting slide to the bottom.

Directions: Gravey Chute is reached by first making a sharp, right U-turn off Chair 1, then following the lift towers to the very edge of the run.

Left Pictured here is one of the most popular advanced runs at Mammoth — Fascination. And although it doesn't appear steep, it is. In the background loom the snow laden Drop Out and Wipe Out chutes.

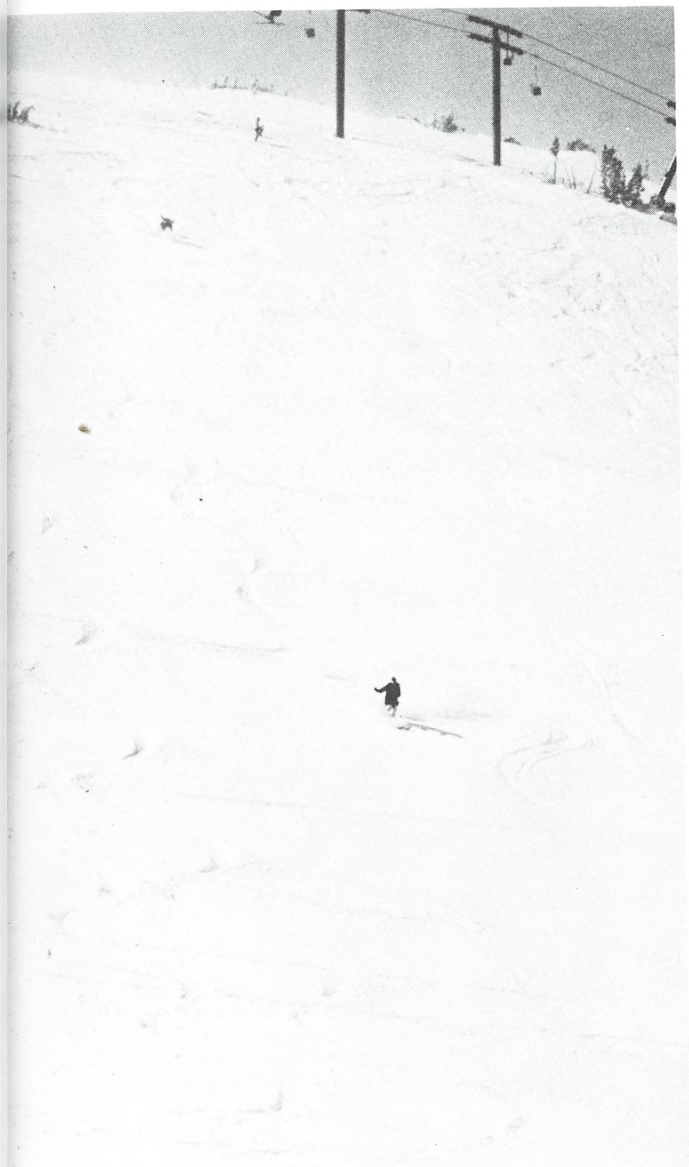
Fascination grows some of the biggest, gnarliest bumps on the mountain.



Gravey Chute is perfect for exhibition type skiing. But don't be fooled by this photo. It's super steep and extremely narrow.



Wall and Gravey Chute are two popular, advanced runs off Chair 1. The Wall is the open slope located to the left of the large rock. Gravey Chute is the narrow slope to the right of the rock. The clearing in the trees (bottom right) is the top of Lower Wall.



The Wall is a favorite powder run and one of the first to be skied after a snowfall.

POWDER BOWL . . . for advanced-intermediate skiers

Patrol rating: More difficult

Vertical drop: 600 feet

Length: 900 feet

A short, moderately pitched bowl that offers excellent skiing in all conditions. During storms, prevailing winds deposit large amounts of new snow producing good powder skiing. Once packed, the run quickly becomes heavily moguled providing lesser skiers with a challenging, yet not too difficult, slope for "skiing the bumps."

Note: Should Powder Bowl prove too steep, a traverse through the trees along the right side (looking down) will lead to Broadway.

THE WALL . . . for advanced skiers

Patrol rating: More difficult

Vertical drop: 400 feet

Length: 650 feet

Upper Wall

A steep, wide-open face that begins at the top of Chair 1 and drops sharply into Upper Broadway. During storms, it receives unusually large amounts of new snow and is one of the premier powder runs on the mountain. Once packed, huge moguls quickly appear and offer a severe test for those interested in skiing the bumps.

Lower Wall

A short, steep, bumpy face. It begins in a clump of trees near the bottom of Gravey Chute and drops quickly into Lower Broadway. Lower Wall provides skiers of Gravey Chute and Upper Wall with yet another challenging route to Chair 1.

Directions: To get from Upper to Lower Wall, traverse left (looking down) from a point $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way down Upper Wall. See map for location of traverse.

AROUND THE CORNER . . . for advanced-intermediate skiers

Patrol rating: More difficult
Vertical drop:
Length:

A wide, treeless slope that serves as an access run for skiers heading from Chair 1 to Blue Ox or St. Anton.

Directions: Upon leaving Chair 1, hike straight ahead. After a short distance signs will point the way to St. Anton and Blue Ox.

BROADWAY . . . for intermediate skiers

Patrol rating: More difficult
Vertical drop: 900 feet
Length: 3400 feet

Mammoth's most popular and heaviest skied run. It extends straight up the mountain from the Main Lodge and serves as an access run for skiers returning to the lodge from other parts of the hill. It is an extremely long run and divides into the following sections:

Upper Broadway

A short run extending from the top of Chair 1 to the top of T-bar 2. It begins with a flat, easy straightaway, but soon drops sharply into a steep, mogully bowl. Upper Broadway ends near a clump of trees at the bottom of the bowl.

Lower Broadway

A fun, yet challenging place to ski. Its gentle pitch, small bumps, and wide-open terrain help make it one of the most popular intermediate slopes on the mountain.

Caution: Because of its center stage location, Lower Broadway is a favorite haunt for the fast, flashy type skier. Stay alert and under control at all times while on this run.

THUNDER MOUNTAIN . . . for intermediate skiers

Patrol rating: Easiest
Vertical drop: 200 feet
Length: 700 feet

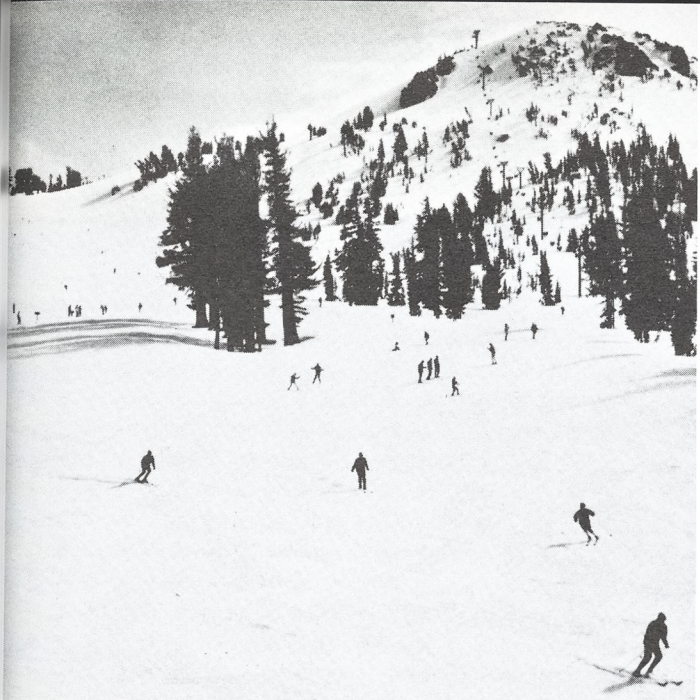
An easy, wide-open slope located between T-Bar 2 and Chair 6. Its gentle pitch and proximity to the Main Lodge make it a big favorite of Novice and Intermediate skiers.

Caution: Because of its central location, Thunder Mountain is a popular haunt of the fast and flashy hotdog skier. Stay alert and under control while on this run.

Top right When Mammoth first opened, Broadway was one of the first slopes skied. Today, it is still the most popular run on the mountain.

Top left The bumps on Lower Broadway are usually small, but always plentiful.

Bottom right Thunder Mountain is the scene of constant activity. It is surrounded by chairlifts, T-bars, and numerous runs that funnel constant traffic onto it.





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GUS'S PASTURE . . . for beginning skiers

Patrol rating: Easiest

Vertical drop: 0

Length: 400 feet

A large, flat area located next to the Gondola building at the Main Lodge. It is used by the ski school for teaching the fundamentals of skiing: walking, straight running, turning and stopping.

Note: The area is named for Gus Weber, Mammoth's first ski school director.

BOWLING ALLEY . . . for advanced-intermediate skiers

Patrol rating: More difficult

Vertical drop: 700 feet

Length: 3000 feet

Although Bowling Alley is considered one run, there are two distinct sections:

Upper Bowling Alley

The top half is short and easy. It consists of one bumpy pitch followed by a long, "bowling alley" flat straight-away. The upper section ends at the top of Chair 6.

Lower Bowling Alley

Below Chair 6, the run suddenly tapers into a narrow, treelined gulley that drops sharply into Thunder Mountain. Small, tricky moguls demand concentration and help make this a most formidable section.

Note: To avoid the gulley bear right at the top of Chair 6 and ski either Jill's Run or Lower Forest Trail.

Top left A lone skier finds Upper Forest Trail a good run to ski when crowds become unreasonable.

Bottom left Lower Forest Trail isn't considered steep, but a well worn slalom course can make it very tricky.

Right Upper Bowling Alley is short but sweet. Above are the Cornice bound gondola cars.

FOREST TRAIL . . . for advanced-intermediate skiers

Patrol rating: More difficult

Vertical drop: 700 feet

Length: 3000 feet

A quiet, treelined run that divides into the following sections:

Upper Forest Trail

A mild slope that meanders gently through the trees and ends at the top of Chair 6. Because of its isolated location, it is only lightly traveled and a good place to ski when the mountain is crowded.

Lower Forest Trail

A short, sometimes difficult slope extending from the top of Chair 6 to the Main Lodge. The ski school uses this run for slalom practice and the deep ruts left in the snow can become quite tricky at times.



JILL'S RUN . . . for novice skiers

Patrol rating: Easiest
Vertical drop: 300 feet
Length: 1000 feet

A wide, gentle slope extending along the left side of Chair 6. It is one of the most popular novice runs on the mountain with lots of room for turning and stopping. Near the bottom, Jill's Run joins with St. Moritz for any easy cruise back to Chair 6.

Note: This run is named for Jill Kinmont, one of Mammoth's most renowned woman racers.

OVER EASY . . . for novice skiers

Patrol rating: Easiest
Vertical drop:
Length:

A gentle access trail that leads from the top of Chair 6 to the bottom of Chair 10. It is used as a short cut by skiers heading from the Main Lodge to either Chairs 2 or 10.

Caution: At times Over Easy becomes narrow and treelined. Speed and control should be kept in check at all times.

Notes:

1. The start of Over Easy is a bit difficult to find. From the top of Chair 6 traverse through the trees toward Mambo. Cross Mambo. Over Easy begins in the trees on the right side of Mambo (looking down).
2. The trail appears to end as it intersects Stump Alley. But it begins again on the other side, slightly lower than where it left off. See map.

ST. MORITZ . . . for novice skiers

Patrol rating: Easiest
Vertical drop: 800 feet
Length: 8000 feet

A long, gradual trail that begins at the top of Chair 2 and winds all the way to the Main Lodge. The slope is wide and gently pitched providing novice skiers with an easy yet exciting introduction to skiing on Mammoth Mountain.

Caution: At times St. Moritz becomes difficult to follow. Should you become lost or confused ask a patrolman for directions. Do not ski onto any of the intersecting runs.

MAMBO . . . for intermediate skiers

Patrol rating: Easiest
Vertical drop: 1000 feet
Length: 4200 feet

A wide, treelined slope providing intermediate skiers with an exciting run down Chair 2. It consists of a series of small bowls followed by wide stretches of open terrain. Steep, bumpy pitches here and there add extra challenge. Mambo is constantly groomed and good snow conditions can usually be counted upon.

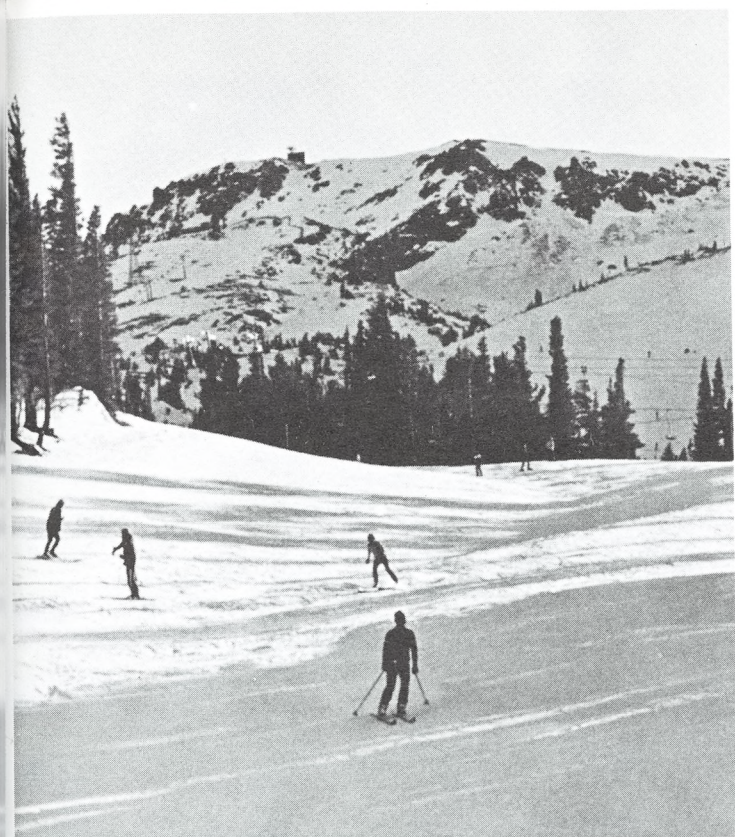
Caution: Mambo is an extremely popular run and can get quite crowded at times. Stay alert and in control at all times—especially on weekends.

Top right Mambo is a skiers delight. Lots and lots of room.

Top left Jill's Run is wide and gently pitched — ideal for novice skiers.

Bottom right The top of St. Moritz passes gently beneath Chair 2 then winds easily down to the Main Lodge.

Bottom left Mambo ends with an almost flat straightaway that leads to Chair 2.



STUMP ALLEY . . . for advanced-intermediate skiers

Patrol rating: More difficult
Vertical drop: 1000 feet
Length: 4200 feet

Of all the routes leading down Chair 2 "Stump" is by far the most challenging. The run begins as a gentle trail wandering in and out of small trees below the chair. About 1/2 way down the trail funnels onto a steep, demanding face where large, irregular moguls demand utmost concentration. From the bottom of this section a straight schuss leads back to Chair 2.

Caution: Most of Stump Alley is skied in full view of Chair 2 and is a big favorite of the flash and dash type skier. Use extreme caution at all times—especially on the steep, bumpy section in the middle.

Note: Fantastic powder skiing can be found in the trees along the left side of this run (looking down).

PATROLMEN'S . . . for advanced-intermediate skiers

Patrol rating: More difficult
Vertical drop: 300 feet
Length: 1000 feet

A short, out-of-the-way run located in the trees between Mambo and Stump Alley. It was originally a "secret spot" skied only by patrolmen seeking relief from heavy crowds. Recently, the run has been widened and marked. Yet even today it is not heavily traveled and still offers the adventurous skier a moment of solitary relief.

Caution: Because the run is not heavily traveled, the snow found on it is usually junk and most difficult to ski.



The middle section of Stump Alley is steep and almost always bumpy. It's an ideal place to exhibit your mogul technique.

Right Stump Alley is one of the most popular routes down Chair 2. And this picture shows you why. The ominous avalanche chutes of the Cornice loom in the background.

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EGO BOWL . . . for advanced skiers

Patrol rating: More difficult

Vertical drop: 300 feet

Length: 500 feet

A short but steep slope good for 3-4 quick powder turns. It is skied the day of or the day after a storm. Once tracks appear it will be left until the next snowfall.

Note: It is so named because of its direct exposure to Chair 2. Here skiers get a chance to exhibit their powder technique to those riding the lift!

Directions: Starting from behind the Midway Chalet follow a left traverse through the trees toward the Come Back Cliffs. After a short distance, Ego Bowl will open up on your left. See map for location of traverse.

PATTON'S RIDGE . . . for advanced skiers

Patrol rating: More difficult

Vertical drop: 500 feet

Length: 1500 feet

An isolated, rarely skied, ridge-run offering fabulous powder skiing. The slope starts off gentle and lightly treed at the top, but becomes steep and heavily wooded as it drops toward Chair 2. It is primarily skied the day of or the day after a storm and will often be closed due to avalanche danger.

Directions: Starting from behind the Midway Chalet, follow a high left traverse until you reach the edge of the Come Back Cliffs. Patton's Ridge begins to the left. See map for exact location.

Caution: Should this run prove too difficult, a left traverse (looking down) will bring you into Stump Alley.

Warning: A steep cliff extends along the upper right side of this ridge. Skiers attempting this run should be proficient in powder technique and accompanied by someone familiar with the terrain.

POMA LIFT . . . for novice skiers

A small teaching and practice hill located behind the Midway Chalet. Here, novice skiers can work on fundamentals without fear of fast skiers, or the hassle of long lift lines.

Caution: Anyone experiencing difficulty with this slope should not attempt skiing to the bottom.

Although its only good for a few turns, Ego Bowl is a good place to find snow like this.





Skiing powder on Mammoth is a matter of timing. You have to be in the right place at the right time. Powder only lasts a short time. Within a few hours every run is usually skied out.



WEST BOWL . . . for advanced skiers

Patrol rating: More difficult
Vertical drop: 900 feet
Length: 1500 feet

A steep, wide-open bowl located on the far west end of the Face of Chair 3. It is an excellent run in fresh powder with lots of room for wide, sweeping turns. It is also good for high-speed mogul skiing. The bumps are usually round and well formed with a consistent rhythm top to bottom. West Bowl is a favorite of Mammoth's better skiers and a good place to ski when the rest of the Face is crowded.

CENTER BOWL . . . for advanced skiers

Patrol rating: More difficult
Vertical drop: 1000 feet
Length: 2800 feet

The most popular advanced area on Mammoth Mountain where the better skiers ski. The slope consists of a wide-open face located to the left and right of Chair 3. You can ski either the two gullies to the left, or the ridge to the right of the chair. The area is steep and

almost always heavily moguled demanding an advanced skiing technique.

Note: Center Bowl is a favorite exhibition run. Chair 3 runs directly above giving skiers a chance to "showboat" as their friends oggle from aboard the lift.

CHINA BOWL CHRISTMAS BOWL . . . for advanced-intermediate skiers

Patrol rating: More difficult
Vertical drop: 800 feet
Length: 1200 feet

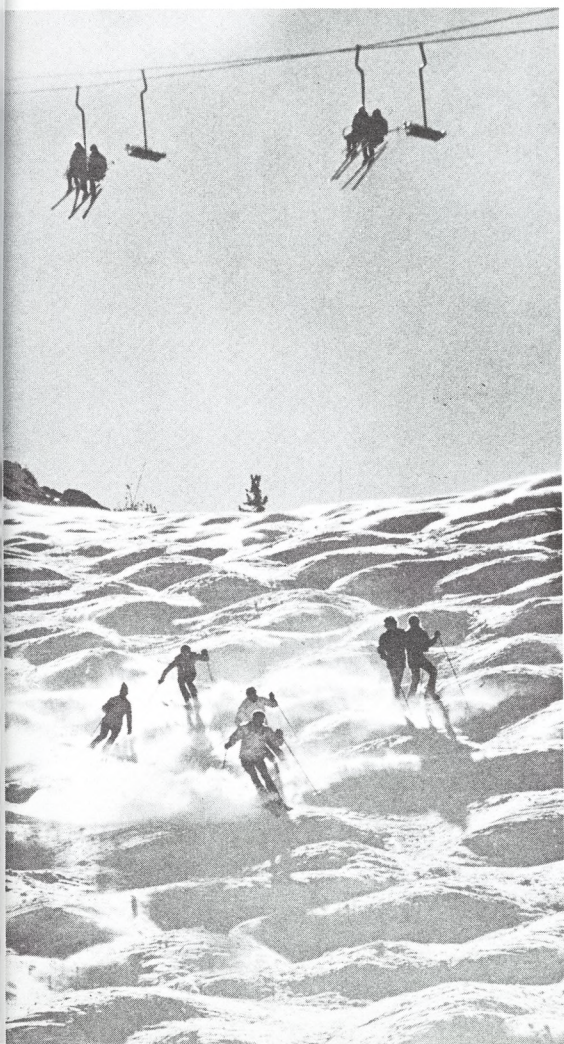
Two steep bowls located on the eastern end of the Face of Chair 3. They are used primarily as access runs by skiers coming from Chair 5 across to Chair 3. Each bowl begins narrow at the top, then gradually widens before emptying onto a large, flat plateau at the bottom. From here, a left traverse leads to Chair 3 and the Midway Chalet.

Note: Near the bottom of China Bowl there is a natural hot springs where you can warm your hands on those super cold days. It is easily recognized by the steam emerging from the rocks.



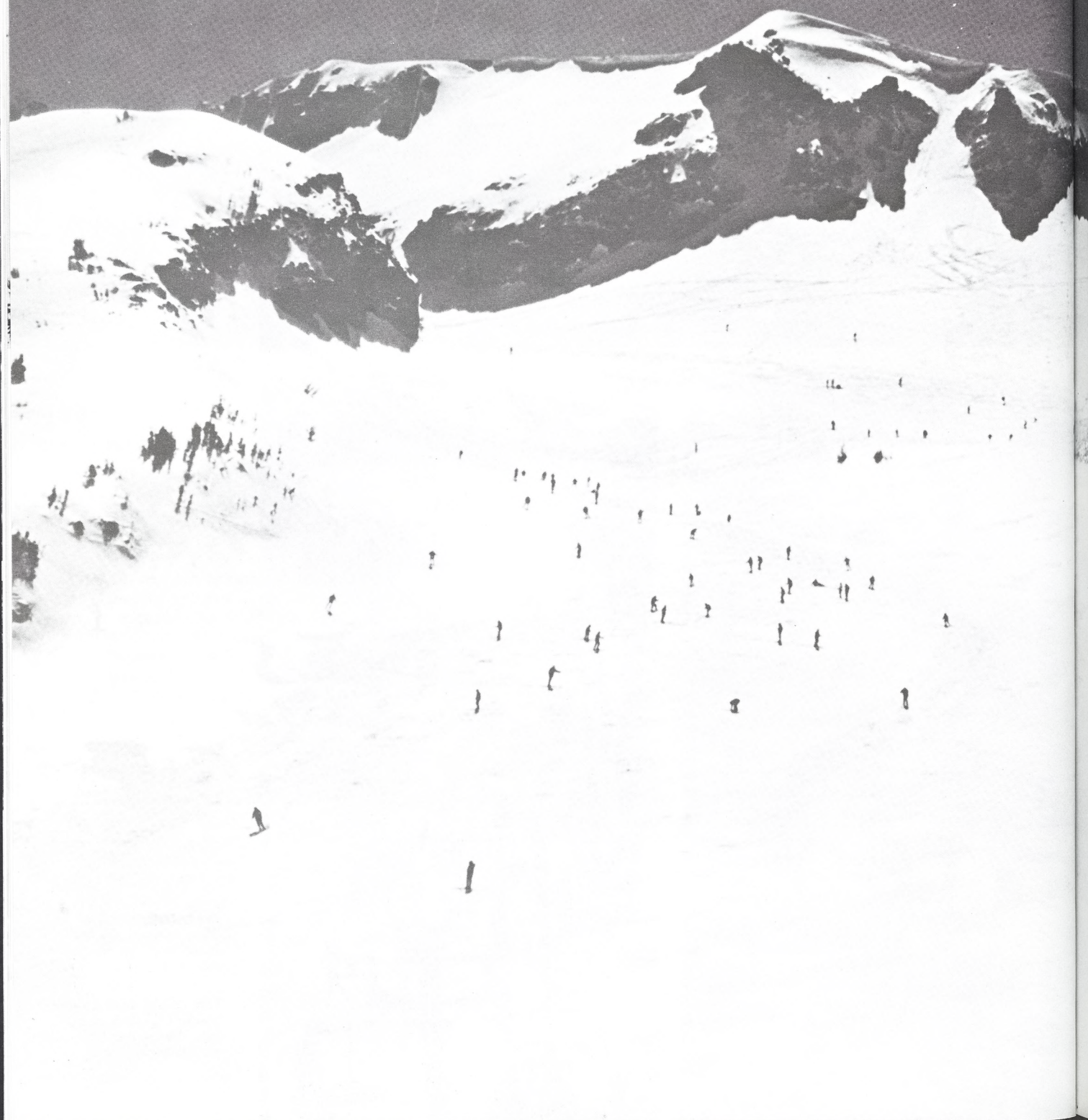
Far Left The face of Chair Three is wide-open with numerous lines all leading back to the chair.

Left Two lone skiers are about to cut up the powder in West Bowl.



Far left Center Bowl offers some of the best bump skiing on the mountain.

Left Waist deep powder blankets Chair 3 as a lone skier pushes his way through.





SADDLE BOWL . . . for advanced-intermediate skiers

Patrol rating: More difficult

Vertical drop: 800 feet

Length: 2800 feet

For those who enjoy skiing Chair 3 but cannot handle the steep of its frontside, Saddle Bowl is for you. It's the only advanced-intermediate run that begins at, and returns to, Chair 3. The initial drop into the bowl is steep and usually very bumpy. But once below this section the run gradually widens into a long, open gulley with lots of room for sweeping, wide radius turns. Near the bottom a seemingly flat straightaway leads back to the chair.

Caution: Although the straightaway at the bottom looks like an easy schuss, it is deceptively steep. Tremendous speeds can be attained in a matter of seconds.

HAIR JUMP

Not a run but a ski jump producing thrills and spills for participants and spectators alike. The jump is formed by a small rock outcropping located atop a ridge at the bottom of Cornice Bowl. Takeoff speed is provided by the bottom slope of the bowl. The north slope of Gremlin's Gulch provides a perfect downhill landing. For spectators, anywhere on the ridge offers a good vantage point.

Warning: Hair Jump can be dangerous. Jumps of well over 100 feet are possible. Only skiers proficient in flight technique need apply.

Saddle Bowl (center of photo) is one of the more popular runs off Chair 3. It's not as steep as the Face of Three but still offers wide-open, challenging skiing. This photo was taken shortly after a heavy snowfall. Note the small slide that has just rolled down Cornice Bowl. (slope at far right).

ST. ANTON . . . for advanced-intermediate skiers

Patrol rating: More difficult

Vertical drop: 1800 feet

Length: 2.5 miles

This is the longest run on Mammoth Mountain extending from the backside of Chair 3 all the way to the Main Lodge. It divides into the following sections:

Upper St. Anton

The upper half consists of over a mile and a half of open, treeless terrain. The run begins with a long traverse from off the backside of Chair 3. After dropping through a steep pitch (squiggly line on map), the run opens into a wide gulley with lots of room for sweeping, G.S. type turns. The upper section ends as the gulley gradually narrows.

Lower St. Anton

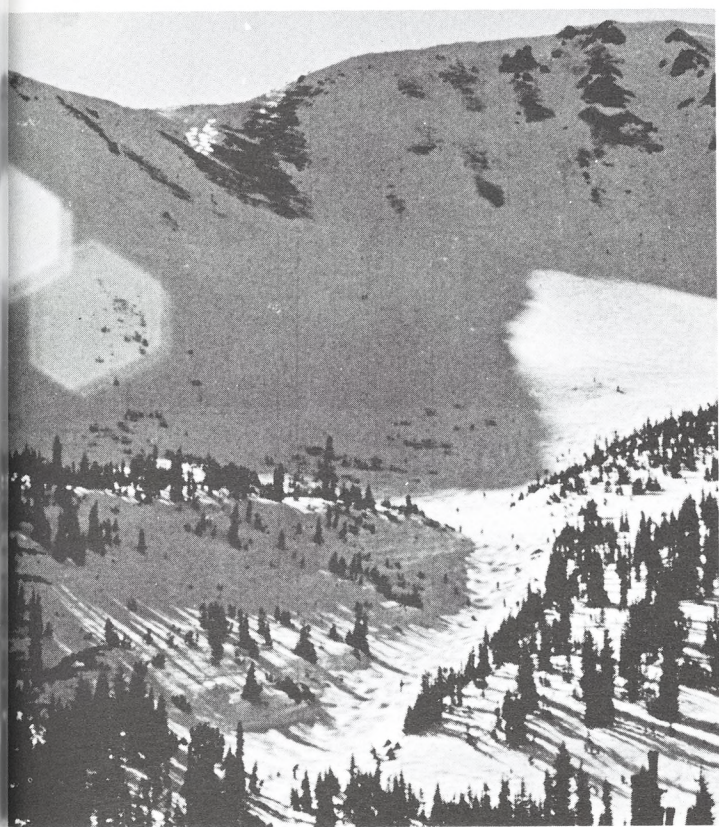
About $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way down, St. Anton tapers into a tight gulley commonly referred to as "the narrows." Although the gulley isn't steep, it is usually bumpy and can get crowded at times. Below the gulley the run widens and ends with a long, straight schuss to the Main Lodge.

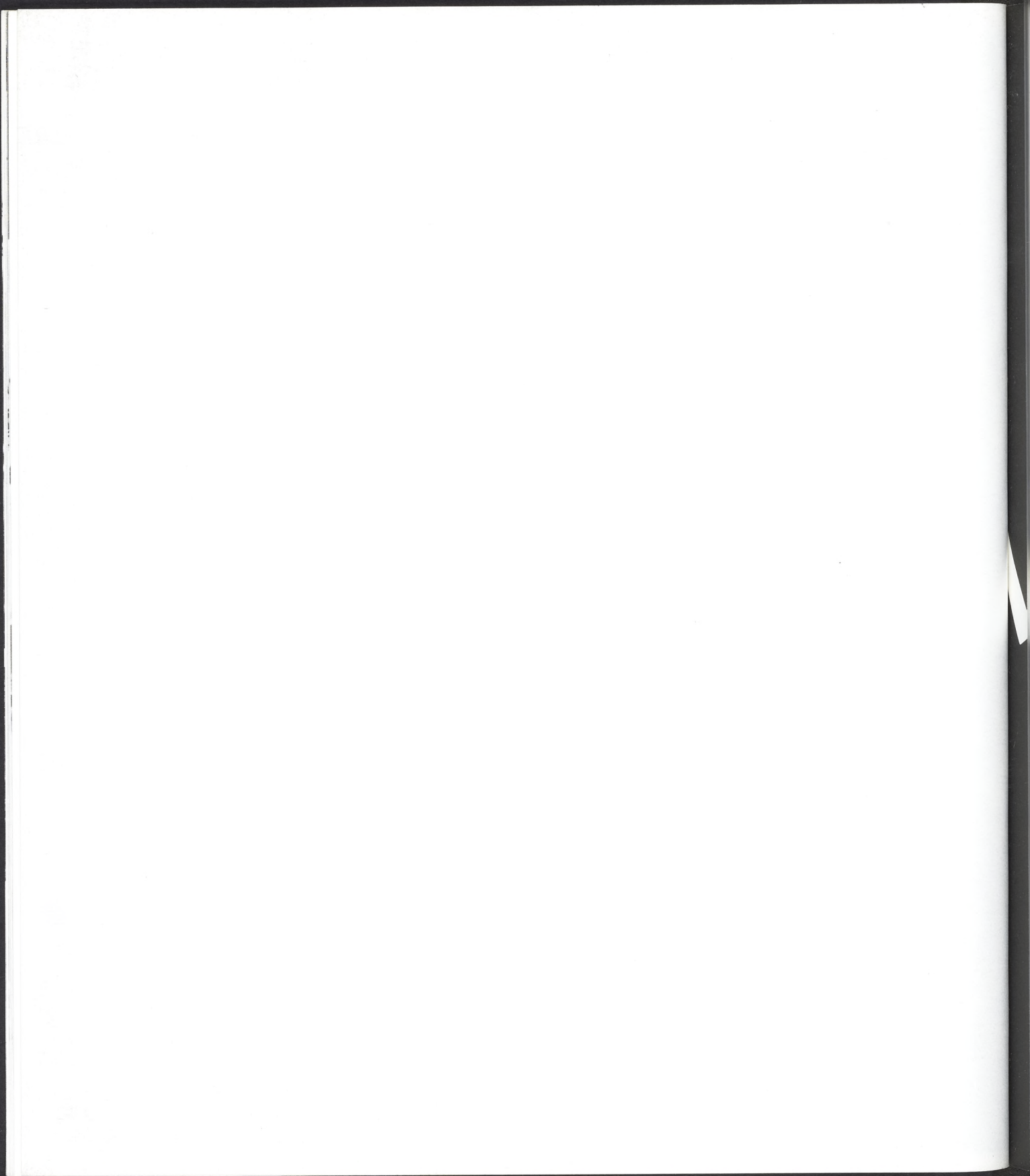
Directions: St. Anton can be entered from two directions:

1. From the backside of Chair 3. This is the most popular entry. It allows you to ski the entire run top to bottom.
2. From the top of Chair 1. Ski onto Around the Corner and follow the signs to St. Anton. This route brings you into the run about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile above "the narrows."

Pictured to the right is the area commonly referred to as the "Backside of Three". It consists of two runs: St. Anton and Saddle Bowl. St. Anton is the moderately sloping run to the right. Saddle Bowl is the run to the left under the massive rock. Note the Cornice bound gondola cars as they cross the chasm between Chair 3 and the Cornice.

Right Two views of the "St. Anton Narrows". Photo on the left was taken in early winter with only 3-4 feet of snow. Photo on the right was taken a few weeks later. Note what a difference 5 more feet of snow can make.





Lodgde New Area

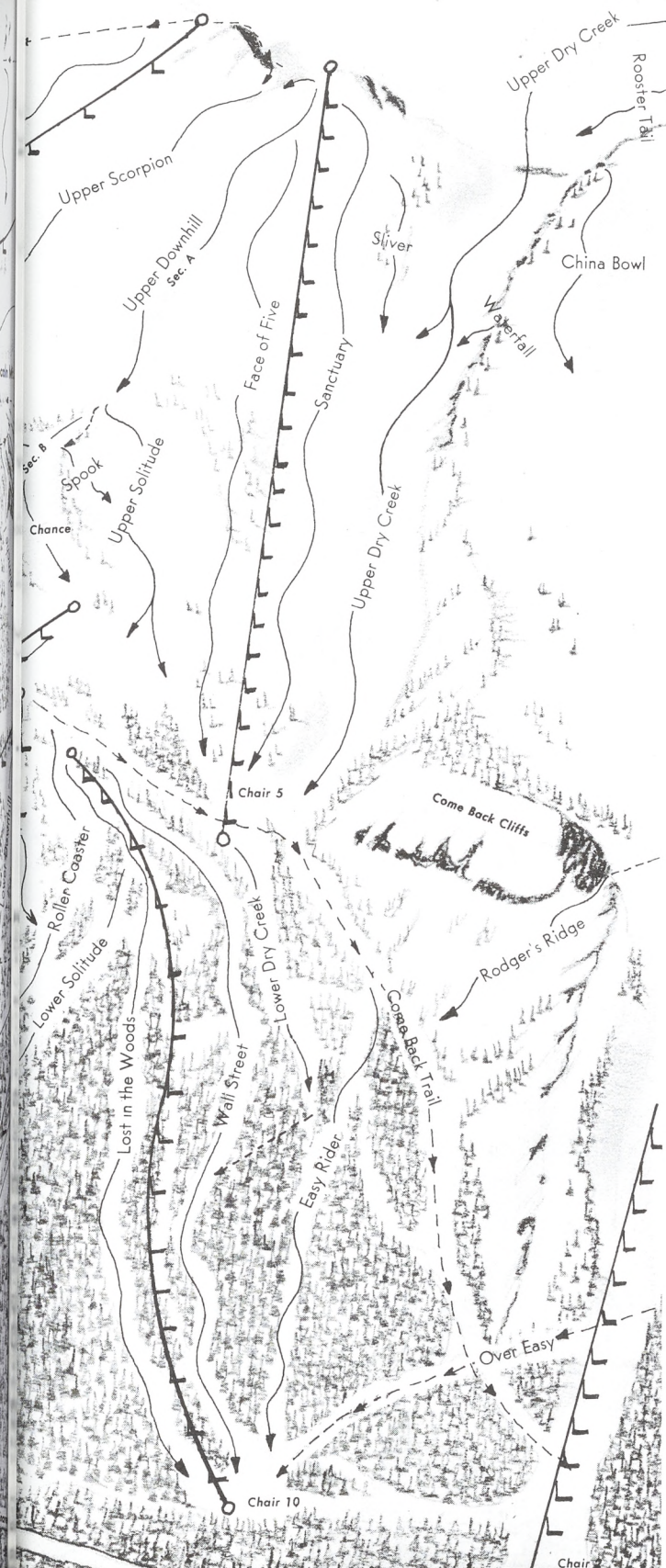


New Lodge Area

This is a detailed trail map of the New Lodge Area, showing various ski runs, chairlifts, and geographical features. The map includes labels for runs like Lower Tarantula, Lower Scorpion, Grizzly, and Spring Canyon. It also marks chairlifts 1 through 9 and 14, and points of interest such as Lincoln Mt., Avalanche, and the New Lodge building. Roads like Lake Mary Rd, Canyon Blvd, and Lakeview Dr are shown. The map is oriented with Lincoln Mt. at the top right and the New Lodge at the bottom left.

Key Features and Labels:

- Runs and Trails:** Lower Tarantula, Lower Scorpion, Grizzly, Spring Canyon, Hully Gully, Swell, Christmas Tree, Chickadee, Blue Jay, Sleepy Hollow, Viva, Avalanche, Lower Downhill, Gingerbread, Hansel, Grefel.
- Chairlifts:** Chair 1, Chair 2, Chair 3, Chair 4, Chair 5, Chair 6, Chair 7, Chair 8, Chair 9, Chair 14.
- Geographical Features:** Lincoln Mt., Upper, Lower, Grizzly Shaft 1, Grizzly Shaft 2, Viva, Avalanche, Spring Canyon, Hully Gully, Swell, Christmas Tree, Chickadee, Blue Jay, Sleepy Hollow, Viva, Avalanche, Lower Downhill, Gingerbread, Hansel, Grefel.
- Roads:** Lake Mary Rd, Canyon Blvd, Lakeview Dr.
- Other Labels:** New Lodge, Lupin, Choke, Grizzly, Viva, Avalanche, Lower Downhill, Gingerbread, Hansel, Grefel, Minaret Rd.



The New Lodge Area is the largest of the four mountain sections. It extends from the Come Back Cliffs all the way to Chair 9. The area is so massive that any and all types of terrain can be skied. From the gentle, novice slopes off Chair 7 to the steep demanding routes down Chair 5. The lodge located between Chairs 16 and 8 serves as the area's center of activity.

When the skies are clear the New Lodge Area is a good place to ski — especially in the morning. Most of its slopes face east and are therefore the first to receive the warming rays of the sun. Even during inclement weather the chairlifts will usually continue to operate. While fierce, chilling winds will buffet both the Cornice, Backside, and Main Lodge areas, the New Lodge Area remains relatively protected. During bad weather this is the place to ski.



A steady stream of skiers carve down Rooster Tail heading for Chair 5. Chair 3 and the Gondola are in background.



Top
The top of Upper Dry Creek is wide and open. Not at all like the gully it tapers into.

Early in the season the gully on Dry Creek is narrow and rocky. By February the rocks are usually covered.

UPPER DRY CREEK . . . for advanced skiers

Patrol rating: More difficult

Vertical drop: 1000 feet

Length: 4000 feet

One of the fastest and most exciting ways of getting from Chair 3 to Chair 5 is to ski Upper Dry Creek. The run begins in a huge, wide-open bowl just off the backside of Chair 3. After a short distance, the bowl tapers into a steep, rocklined gulley. Depending on the snow level, this gulley can be either comfortably wide, or narrow and extremely rocky. In either case it's steep and demands tight, controlled turns. Below the gulley, the run opens onto a wide, trail-like slope that drops gradually toward Chair 5.

ROOSTER TAIL . . . for advanced skiers

Patrol rating: More difficult

Vertical drop: 400 feet

Length: 650 feet

A short, super steep face that serves as a short-cut for skiers heading from Chair 3 to Chair 5. It's a bit narrow and rocky at the top, but quickly opens onto a wide face that drops directly into Upper Dry Creek.

Note: Because of its direct exposure to sun and wind, the snow on Rooster Tail is usually packed.

Directions: From the top of Chair 3 ski a short ways down the extreme right side of the face (looking down). Rooster Tail is the first skiable slope on the right. See map for exact location.



In contrast to the picture on opposite page, the gully is now filled with snow. There is so much snow in fact that it doesn't even look steep.

WATERFALL . . . for expert skiers

Patrol rating: Most difficult

Vertical drop: 200 feet

Length: 300 feet

A short, radically steep slope located in a remote section of the Come Back Cliffs. The first 2-3 turns are restricted to a small, rocklined chute. Once below the rocks, the run opens onto a wide face that drops into Upper Dry Creek.

Directions: Waterfall is the first skiable opening on the right side of China Bowl (looking down). See map for exact location.

RODGER'S RIDGE . . . for expert skiers

Patrol rating: Most difficult

Vertical drop: 700 feet

Length: 1300 feet

An exciting powder run located in a remote section of the Come Back Cliffs. The initial drop is breath-takingly steep. After a few turns the run opens onto a wide, concave slope that drops smoothly onto the Come Back Trail. The entire run is skied through small, lightly spaced trees.

Directions: Starting from behind the Midway Chalet, follow a left traverse toward Ego Bowl. Continue until you reach the edge of the Come Back Cliffs. The open slope that drops off to the right is Rodger's Ridge. See map for location of traverse and run.

Note: The run is named for Ken Rodgers, a ski patrolman injured while clearing the area of avalanches.

LOWER DRY CREEK . . . for advanced-intermediate skiers

Patrol rating: More difficult

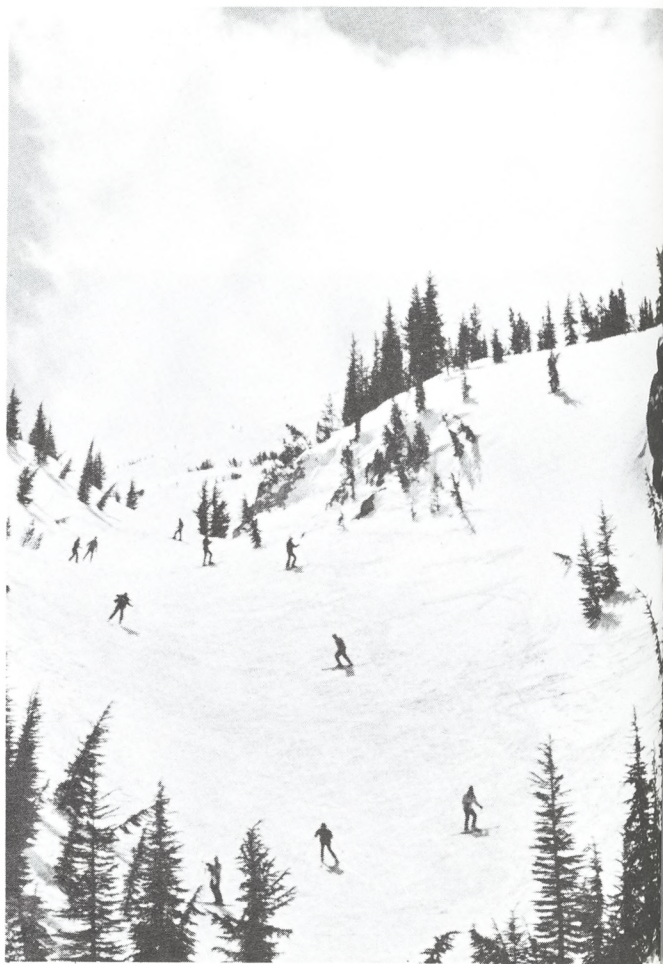
Vertical drop: 400 feet

Length: 2000 feet

An isolated ravine offering the more adventurous type skier an exciting and uncrowded place to ski. The run begins with a narrow straightaway followed by two steep pitches that

zig zag left then right. Next comes a small, medium pitched bowl. At the bottom of the bowl the run seems to end in a clump of trees, but doesn't. It tapers into a thread-like trail that twists and turns in and out of small trees until intersecting with Wall Street.

Caution: The trail at the bottom is deceptively steep. Speed should be controlled at all times lest you find yourself wrapped around one of the small, but plentiful trees.



Puffy clouds float by as a few adventurous skiers cruise down Lower Dry Creek.



Rodger's Ridge (pictured above) offers steep powder skiing for the expert. Note skier (center of photo) as he silently floats through untracked powder. Skiers at base of cliffs anxiously await their turn.

FACE OF CHAIR FIVE . . . for advanced skiers

Patrol rating: More difficult
Vertical drop: 1300 feet
Length: 4000 feet

A long, convex face extending down the left side of Chair 5 (looking up). The upper half is steep but wide-open with lots of room for high-speed, G.S. type skiing. Halfway down, a small clump of trees requires momentary slowing. Once below the trees, the slope again opens but with an easier pitch. The run ends in a straight shot back to Chair 5.

SANCTUARY . . . for advanced skiers

Patrol rating: More difficult
Vertical drop: 1300 feet
Length: 4000 feet

Sanctuary is considered the most difficult run leading down Chair 5. Not only is it long and steep but the bumps get unusually large and terribly gnarly. Skiing the fall-line requires constant turning and intense concentration. Almost the entire run is skied in full view of the chair giving hot and not so hot skiers an opportunity to boogie while their friends oggle from aboard the nearby lift.

SLIVER . . . for advanced skiers

Patrol rating: More difficult
Vertical drop: 400 feet
Length: 800 feet

A short but super steep face located next to Sanctuary. It serves as a challenging diversion for skiers looking for new ways down Chair 5.

Note: Sliver is a good indicator of the type of terrain found on the runs leading off the Cornice. If you can't ski here you're not ready for the Cornice.

SPOOK . . . for advanced skiers

Patrol rating: More difficult
Vertical drop:
Length:

For those seeking the last bit of untracked powder, Spook might be the spot. It's a short but super steep face located in a remote area between Chair 5 and Chair 16. The slope is skied exclusively in fresh snow and once tracked will be left until the next snowfall.

Directions: The top of Spook is accessible only after a strenuous uphill hike from Upper Downhill. See map for location of hike.

Top right The steep, bumpy run to the right of Chair 5 is called Sanctuary. Skiers at extreme upper left are on the slope known as the Face of Five.

Bottom right Two skiers carve down the short pitch called Sliver. But don't be fooled by this picture, Sliver is steep. As steep as many of the runs off the Cornice.



UPPER DOWNHILL . . . for advanced-intermediate skiers

Patrol rating: More difficult
Vertical drop: 900 feet
Length: 4000 feet

One of the most exciting and popular runs off Chair 5 is Upper Downhill. It's long, varied and divides into the following sections:

Section A

A moderately pitched ridge considered the easiest run off Chair 5. Although it isn't steep, it's usually blanketed with small, tricky, cut-up moguls making it extremely difficult at times. At the bottom of the ridge most skiers bear left onto Upper Solitude for the balance of the run back to the Chair 5. If instead, you ski straight ahead, you are now on Section B of Upper Downhill.

Section B

This segment is rarely skied. It consists of one short, steep face called "One Chance" (see note). The run ends just a few yards from the top of Chair 16.

Caution: Because it is so rarely skied, the snow found on Section B is usually junk. The average skier will find the going here a bit difficult.

Note: At one time Upper and Lower Downhill were combined and used for junior downhill racing. The drop-off called "One Chance" was considered one of the most difficult sections on the course. Racers had to take it at tremendous speeds and had only "one chance" to make it or their run was suddenly and abruptly over!

UPPER SOLITUDE . . . for intermediate skiers

Patrol rating: More difficult
Vertical drop: 1000 feet
Length: 4000 feet

A gentle, wide-open slope that begins off Upper Downhill and leads to either Chair 5 or Lower Solitude. About 1/2 way down the run a choice must be made: to the right—Lower Solitude, straight ahead—Chair 5.

Note: When Upper Downhill and Upper Solitude are skied together, they represent the easiest run leading off, and returning to Chair 5.

COME BACK TRAIL . . . for intermediate skiers

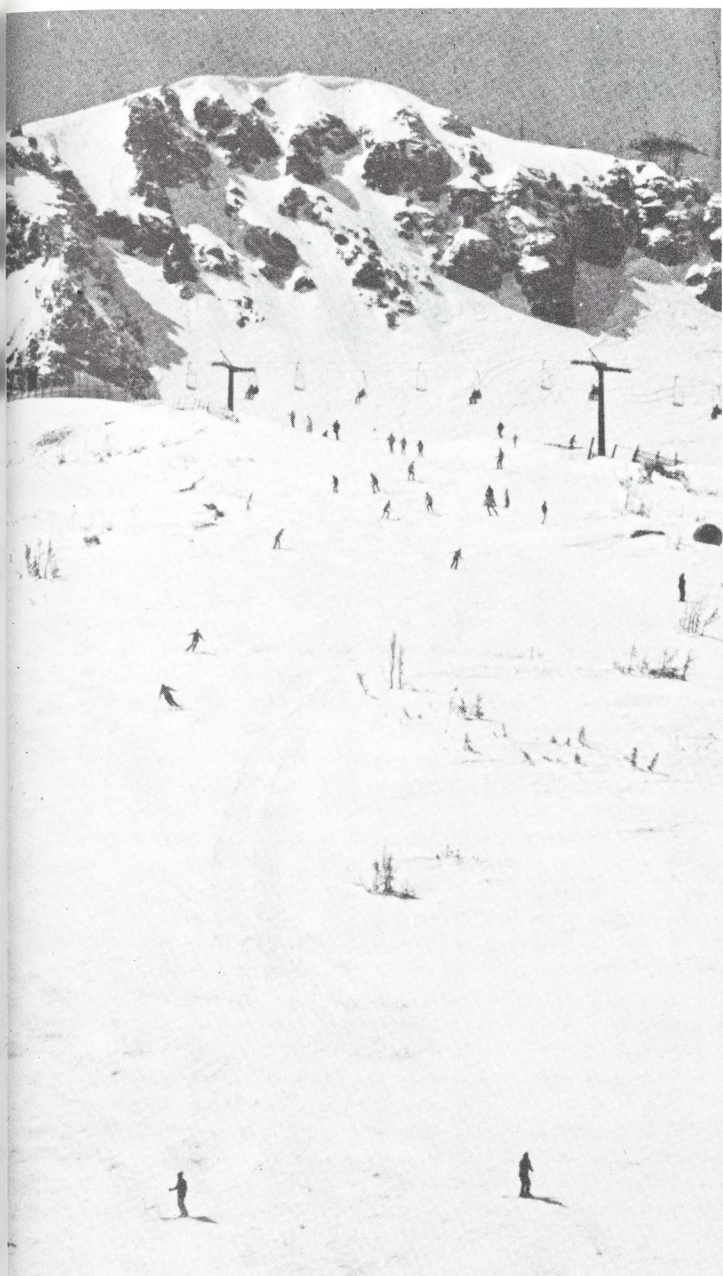
Patrol rating: Easiest
Vertical drop: 1000 feet
Length: 5000 feet

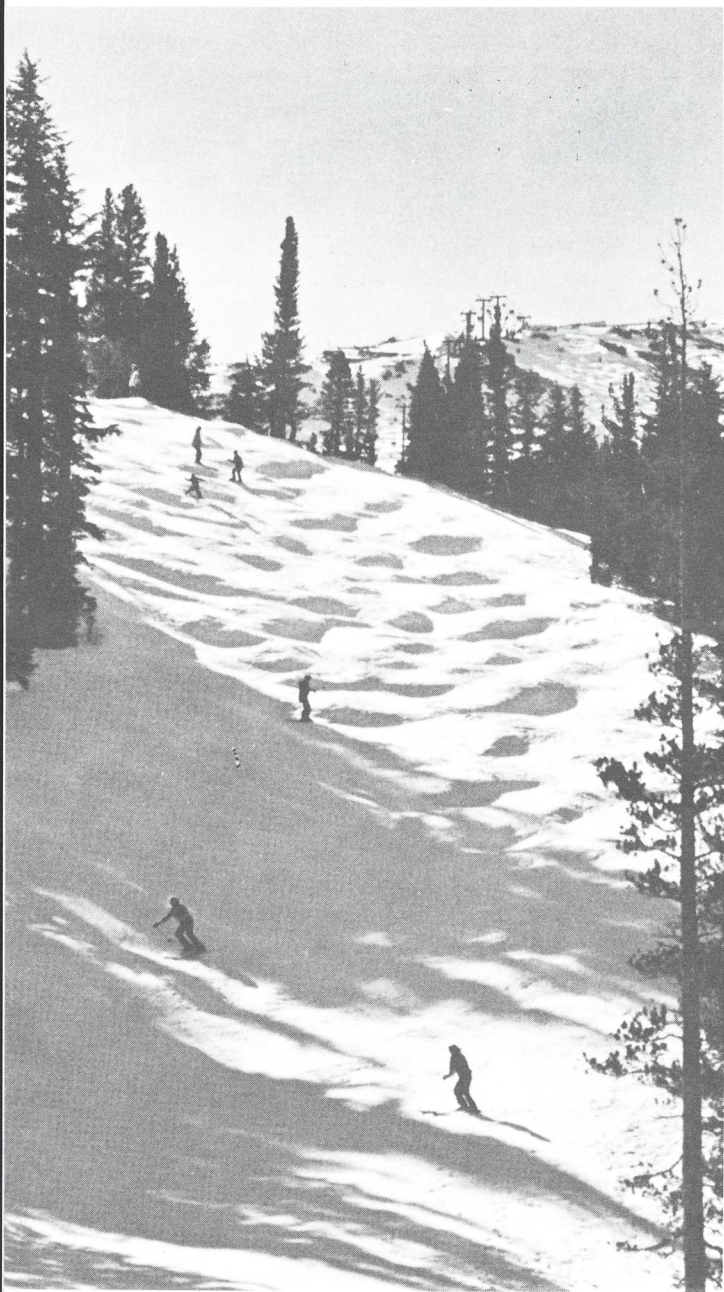
A long, gentle trail leading from the top of Chair 4 to the bottom of Chair 2. It serves as an access run for skiers "coming back" to the Main Lodge from the New Lodge side of the mountain.

Caution: Slow up and watch for cross traffic where Come Back Trail and Over Easy intersect.

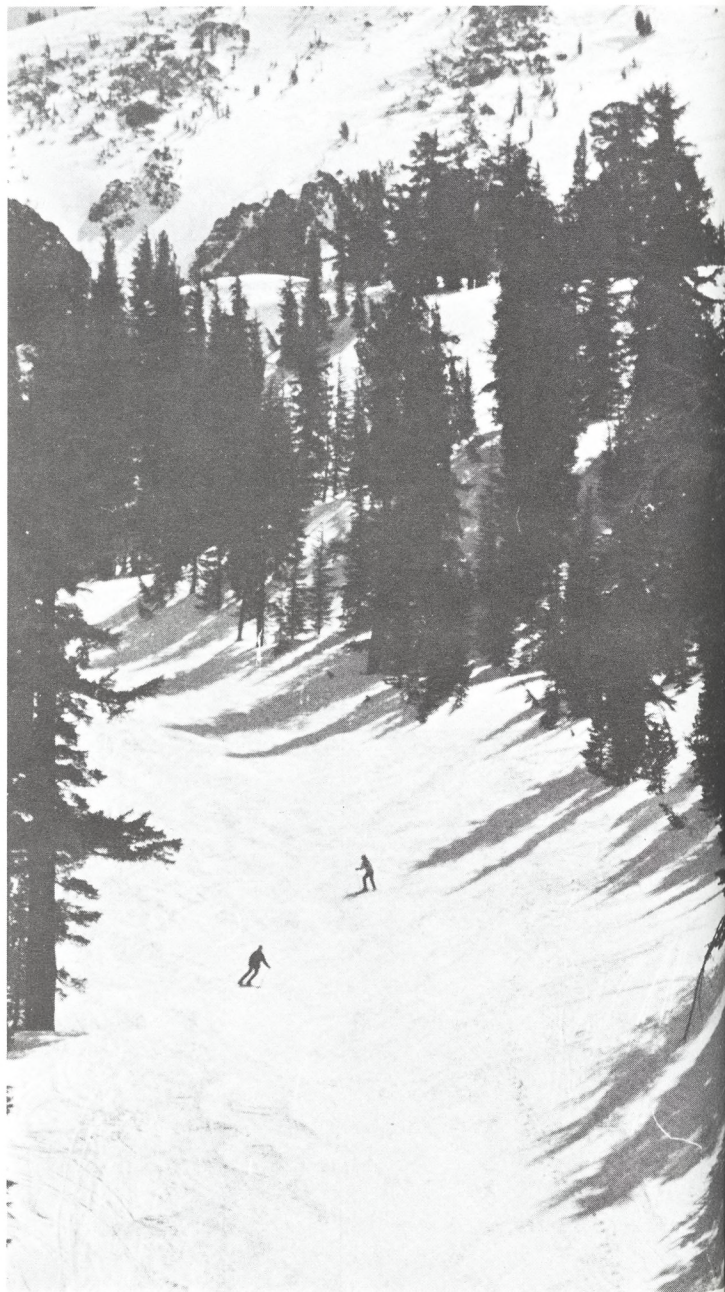
Far right The runs off Chair 5 can get extremely bumpy — especially if it hasn't snowed in awhile.

Near right Upper Downhill offers skiers the easiest route down Chair 5. And although its only moderately pitched, it usually becomes extremely bumpy. Skier at bottom right is heading for Upper Solitude.





The first pitch on Wall Street is the toughest. It's usually bumpy and cut-up. After that it's clear sailing to Chair 10.



Two lone skiers wend their way amid towering trees as they near the bottom of Lost In The Woods.

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WALL STREET . . . for intermediate skiers

Patrol rating: More difficult

Vertical drop: 1000 feet

Length: 5000 feet

Although a bit hard to find, Wall Street offers skiers a challenging and uncrowded route down Chair 10. The run starts out with an easy straightaway but is soon followed by a steep, difficult face. It's not so much the steepness that makes this pitch difficult, but the large, chopped-up moguls that seem everpresent. Once below the face a gentle slope leads to Chair 10.

Directions: From the top of Chair 10 ski to the right as if heading to Chair 5. The first opening in the trees on the right (looking down) is the top of Wall Street. See map for exact location.

EASY RIDER . . . for novice skiers

Patrol rating: Easiest

Vertical drop: 400 feet

Length: 2000 feet

An easy, wide-open slope that begins along the Come Back Trail and leads to the bottom of Chair 10. Except for one bumpy pitch at the top, the run is straight and very gentle. Novice skiers will find Easy Rider an excellent practice run.

LOST IN THE WOODS . . . for advanced-intermediate skiers

Patrol rating: More difficult

Vertical drop: 1000 feet

Length: 5500 feet

A long, twisting, trail-like slope that winds its way down the left side of Chair 10. The run is made up of a series of sharp turns dropping into steep pitches. The pitches are usually heavily moguled and at times can get quite tricky. The run ends with a long straightaway back to Chair 10.

Notes:

1. Lost in the Woods is a good place to ski when the mountain is crowded. Chair 10 seldom has a lift line, and numerous runs can be made while other skiers stand and wait.

2. Excellent powder can be found in the trees beneath Chair 10, lower half of run.

Easy Rider (pictured below) is gentle, wide, and straight as an arrow. In the background are the towering Come Back Cliffs.



ROLLER COASTER . . . for intermediate skiers

Patrol rating: More difficult

Vertical drop: 1000 feet

Length: 5000 feet

Nearly a mile of gentle, rolling, treelined terrain laced with mogully pitches and long straightaways. There is lots of room for wide, sweeping turns or short radius turns in the small bumps. Roller Coaster is the easiest and most popular run down Chair 4 and is meticulously groomed. Perfect snow conditions can almost always be counted on.

AVALANCHE . . . for advanced-intermediate skiers

Patrol rating: More difficult

Vertical drop: 900 feet

Length: 1300 feet

A short, challenging slope that begins atop Chair 4 and ends on Roller Coaster. What makes it popular is a steep, mogully pitch located directly in front of the chair. Here, skiers can boogie in the bumps in full view of those riding the lift. Avalanche ends with a long schuss into Roller Coaster.

Note: The run is named for the three avalanche chutes that tower above it on Lincoln Mountain. During storms, large amounts of snow accumulate in these chutes. Were it not for the ski patrol's constant control, this run is the exact path an avalanche would follow if it rumbled out of the chutes.

LOWER SOLITUDE . . . for advanced-intermediate skiers

Patrol rating: More difficult

Vertical drop: 1000 feet

Length: 5000 feet

A peaceful, treelined slope extending from the top of Chairs 4 and 10 to the bottom of Chair 4. It is made up of a series of short, steep pitches followed by long, straight runouts. Because of the run's somewhat remote location it is not heavily traveled and offers quiet, uncrowded skiing to those tired of dodging in and out of traffic.

Right One of the most popular and heaviest skied runs on the mountain is Roller Coaster. The wide-open, rolling terrain is ideal for intermediate skiers.

Below The steep, bumpy pitch located under Chair 4 is called Avalanche. Note the number of skiers recovering from spills.



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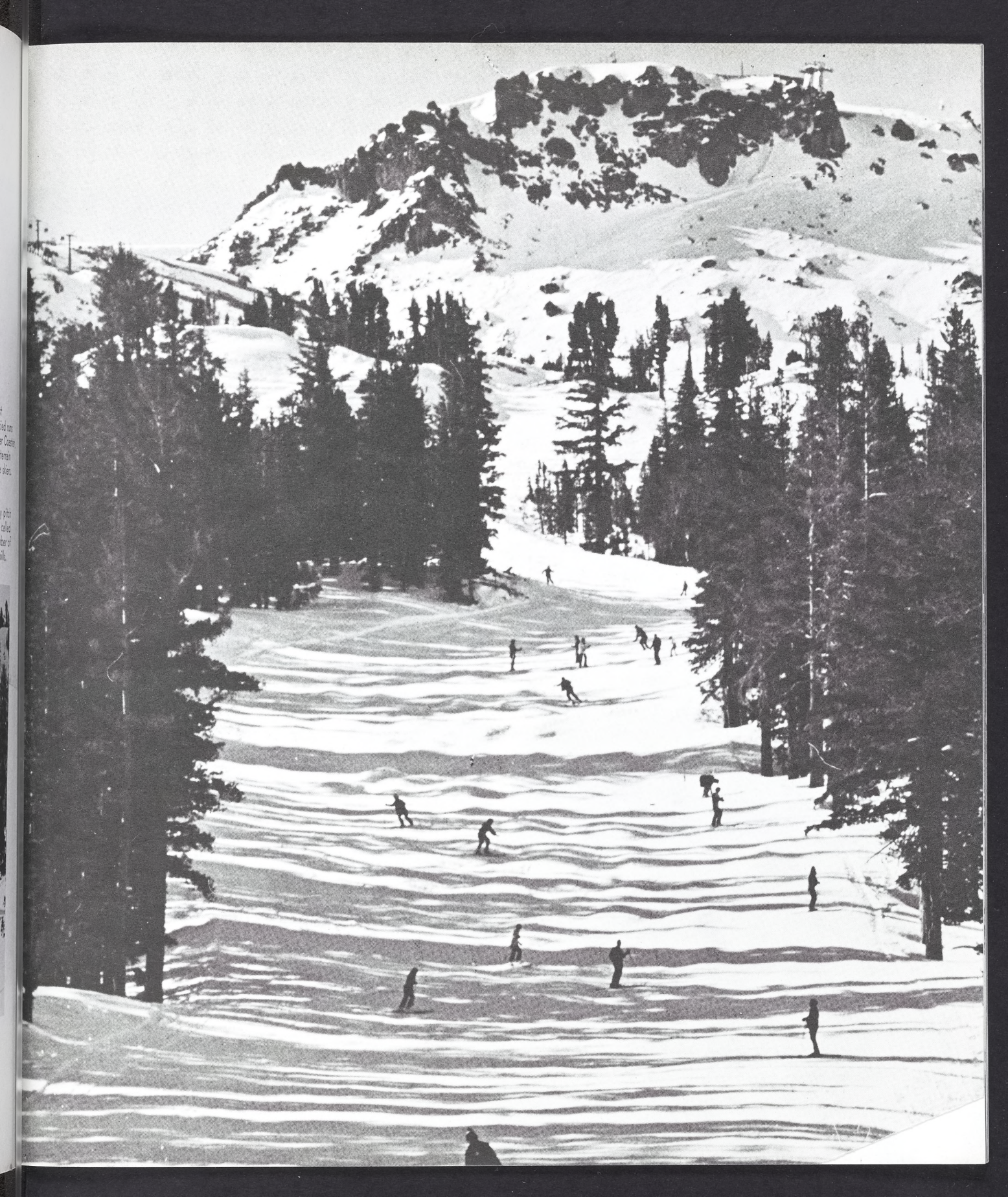
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Two of the more gentle slopes on the mountain are Hansel (far left) and Gretel (above). Both wind easily through the woods and offer novice skiers a safe and exciting place to ski.

HANSEL . . . for novice skiers

Patrol rating: Easiest
Vertical drop: 400 feet
Length: 2000 feet

A gentle, treelined slope that serves as the main novice run on this side of the mountain. Its mild pitch and broad width make it ideal for new skiers learning the fundamentals of the sport. It is also a favorite teaching area of the ski school.

Caution: Near the bottom, Hansel and Gretel intersect in a narrow gulley that leads back to Chair 7. Slow up and use caution while in this area.

GRETEL . . . for novice skiers

Patrol rating: Easiest
Vertical drop: 500 feet
Length: 3000 feet

Although still rated a novice run, Gretel offers more of a challenge than Hansel. The terrain is a bit steeper and more confined. A few mogully pitches here and there add excitement.

SPRING CANYON . . . for intermediate skiers

Patrol rating: More difficult
Vertical drop: 900 feet
Length: 3800 feet

A quiet, treelined gulley that twists and turns gently to the bottom of Chair 7. Because of its out-of-the-way location it is not heavily traveled and offers a peaceful, uncrowded place to ski.

Directions: The entrance to Spring Canyon is a bit tricky to find. It is located about $\frac{1}{2}$ way down Chairs 4 and 16, between Roller Coaster and Lower Downhill. See map for its exact location.

LOWER DOWNHILL . . . for advanced-intermediate skiers

Patrol rating: More difficult
Vertical drop: 1500 feet
Length: 6200 feet

A twisting, turning, mile-long slope that serves as the only route down Chair 16. The terrain is varied and challenging consisting of a long series of mogully pitches, banked S turns, and straight runouts. By the time you reach the bottom the long ride back up is most welcomed.

Note: This run is a continuation of Upper Downhill. At one time both were combined and used for junior downhill competition.



Two skiers carve down one of the few mogulluss sections of Lower Downhill. Chair 16 and the lower portion of Avalanche No. 1 are in the background.

Lincoln Mountain

Located within the New Lodge Area is the steep, isolated peak known as Lincoln Mountain. It stands majestically in front of the New Lodge, and although surrounded by numerous lifts, it is extremely remote and not often skied. No lift services this area and getting to the top is most demanding. (see directions below). The runs leading down Lincoln are for experts, and experts only.

Lincoln Mountain is strictly for the adventurous expert seeking untracked powder or corn snow. It is usually skied right after a storm or in the springtime when certain slopes will "corn up". The rest of the time, heavy, junk snow will blanket it from top to bottom.

Directions: Getting to the top of Lincoln requires a long strenuous, uphill traverse. The traverse begins near the point where Upper Downhill drops into One Chance. By traversing uphill to the right (looking up) you will first cross the south face, then the east, and finally the north. While on the east face, the New Lodge will be visible to your right. For exact location of traverse see map on pages 44 and 45.

GRIZZLY . . . for expert skiers only

Patrol rating: Most difficult
Vertical drop: 900 feet
Length: 2000 feet

A long, steep powder run extending down the east ridge of Lincoln Mountain. Although it's not heavily skied, it does offer fantastic powder the day of, or the day after a storm. Once the run has been tracked, the snow quickly turns to junk. Grizzly will then be left until the next snowfall.

Directions: See introduction to Lincoln Mountain.

SHAFTS 1 & 2 . . . for expert skiers

Patrol rating: Most difficult
Vertical drop: 1000 feet
Length: 1400 feet

Two long, powder chutes that sit side by side on the east face of Lincoln Mountain. Both begin on steep, lightly treed terrain, then funnel into narrow, rocklined shafts. A mistake here can mean a jolting slide into rocks and trees. Once below the shafts, the pitch lessens and the balance of the runs consist of heavily treed, but gentle, rolling terrain.

Caution: These runs are skied exclusively in powder or corn snow. Most of the time the snow here is junk and extremely difficult to ski.

Top right The towering east face of Lincoln Mountain is located directly in front of the New Lodge. Its three slopes: Grizzly, Shaft, and Viva are easily distinguishable by their lack of trees. Chair 16 is to the extreme right.

Bottom right Faint powder tracks are visible in two of the three avalanche chutes located on the north face of Lincoln Mountain.



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The runs down Lincoln Mountain are for experts only. Here a skier slices across hard, wind crusted snow as he nears the bottom of Avalanche No. 2. Chair 16 is in foreground.



The steep, lightly treed, powder slope called Viva can be easily viewed from Chair 16.

AVALANCHE CHUTES 1, 2 & 3 . . . for experts

Patrol rating: Most difficult

Vertical drop: 900 feet

Length: 1300 feet

Three, outrageously steep avalanche chutes extending down the north face of Lincoln Mountain. They are skied exclusively in fresh snow and once tracked will be left until the next snowfall. The entire length of these chutes is lined with giant rocks making precise powder technique mandatory. Near the bottom, all three runs funnel onto a wide-open slope that drops under Chair 16, then intersects Lower Downhill.

Directions: For instructions on how to reach the top of these chutes read the introduction to Lincoln Mountain.

VIVA . . . for expert skiers

Patrol rating: Most difficult

Vertical drop: 1000 feet

Length: 1400 feet

An isolated avalanche chute extending from the top of Lincoln Mountain into Lower Downhill. The top half is wide but extremely steep. As the run descends, it lessens in pitch and becomes heavily wooded. Concentration and precise technique are a must throughout this entire run. Viva is skied exclusively in powder or corn snow. Once the slope has been tracked it will be left alone until the next snowfall.

Directions: Read the introduction to Lincoln Mountain.



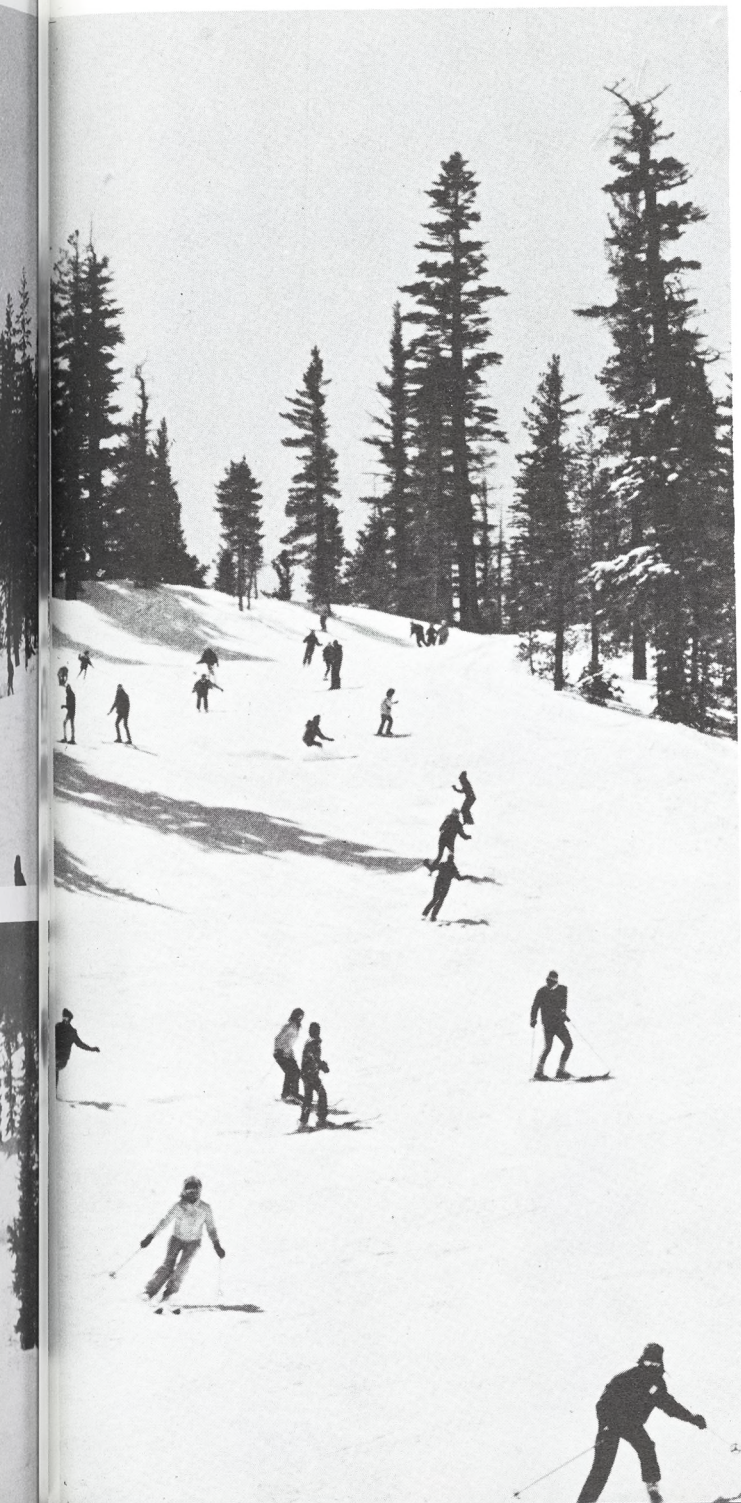
Fresh powder tracks serpentine down one of the avalanche chutes on Lincoln Mountain. It's a good bet those tracks will remain like that until the next snowfall.

Bottom left The New Lodge at Chairs 7 and 8 serves as the center of activity on this side of Mammoth Mountain.

Below The slope located in front of the New Lodge is wide and moderately pitched. But with numerous runs emptying into it, it can still get crowded.

Bottom right Hully Gully is ideal for intermediate skiers. It has plenty of room for turning and a few bumpy pitches for excitement.





NEW LODGE T-BAR . . . for novice skiers

A gentle novice slope located in front of the New Lodge. It is serviced by an easy-to-ride T-bar. Best of all, the T-bar is free. No ticket is required to use this lift.

HULLY GULLY . . . for intermediate skiers

Patrol rating: More difficult
Vertical drop: 900 feet
Length: 4000 feet

Early sun and gentle, rolling terrain make Hully Gully one of the most popular routes down Chair 8. The slope consists of a wide, semi-gulley that wanders gently through the trees next to the lift. Mogully pitches here and there add a little excitement. Near the bottom, Hully Gully intersects Swell and they both empty into the large, open slope fronting the New Lodge.

Note: Although rated intermediate, novice skiers will find this run challenging, but within their capability.

SWELL . . . for advanced-intermediate skiers

Patrol rating: More difficult
Vertical drop: 900 feet
Length: 3500 feet

Of all the routes down Chair 8, Swell is one of the easiest and most popular. It consists of a long, easy slope that slices gently through the trees to the left of the chair (looking up). A few bumpy pitches along the way add a bit of challenge and excitement. Near the bottom, the run passes beneath the chair and ends with one last mogully pitch before intersecting Hully Gully.

Left At times, Swell can get crowded. When this happens the run is like a slalom course with skiers dodging in and out of one another.

BLUE JAY . . . for advanced skiers

Patrol rating: More difficult

Vertical drop: 800 feet

Length: 3600 feet

A narrow, trail-like slope that twists and turns its way through the trees next to Chair 8. The most difficult section comes near the end when the run suddenly drops onto a steep, radical face. Not only is it steep but it's usually covered with large, chopped-up moguls. Getting through is a formidable challenge. Once below the face, Blue Jay ends with a short schuss to Chair 8.

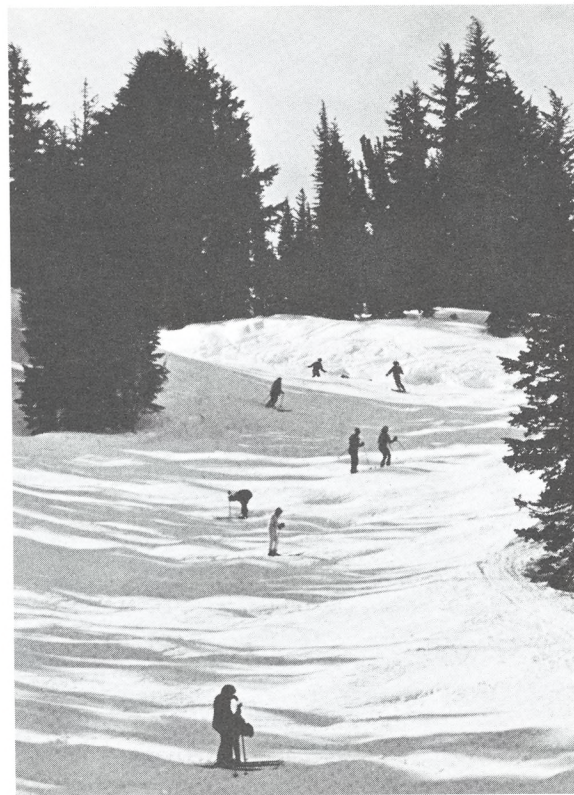
Caution: At one time this run was known as "garbage bowl." It always seemed to have heavy, junk-type snow. Today, this same kind of snow can still be, and often is, encountered.

GOPHER

A gentle, access trail used by skiers heading from Chair 8 to either Chair 4 or Chair 7.

Caution: Watch for fast cross traffic where Gopher intersects Lower Downhill and Spring Canyon.

Note: The name Gopher is derived from "go for it" which is the way you must ski this trail in order to avoid the uphill hikes.

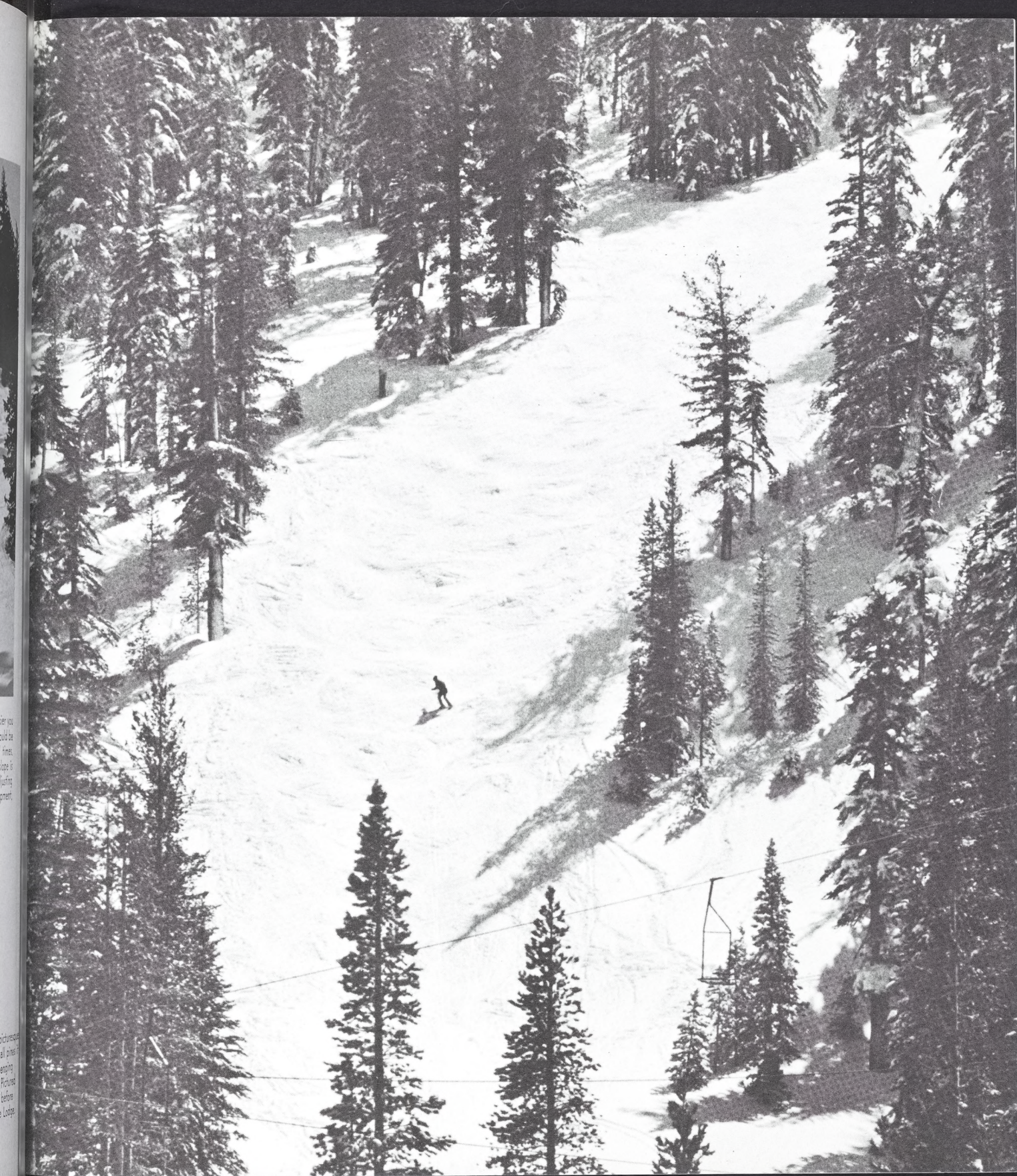


No matter how good a skier you are, speed and control should be maintained at all times. Especially when the slope is filled with skiers adjusting equipment.

Right Bluejay is a picturesque run. Surrounded by tall pines it offers the most challenging route down Chair 8. Pictured here is the last pitch before the run ends near the Lodge.

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CHRISTMAS TREE . . . for intermediate skiers

Patrol rating: Easiest

Vertical drop: 1000 feet

Length: 5000 feet

A quiet, treelined slope extending down the right side of Chair 15 (looking up). The run is gently pitched with lots of room for wide turns and stopping. Near the bottom, Christmas Tree joins with Sleepy Hollow and ends with an easy slope leading to the midway loading station of Chair 15.

SLEEPY HOLLOW . . . for intermediate skiers

Patrol rating: Easiest

Vertical drop: 1000 feet

Length: 5000 feet

Like its neighbor Christmas Tree, Sleepy Hollow is another gentle slope extending down the left side of Chair 15 (looking up). The run is wide and open as it wanders easily amidst huge pinetrees. Near the bottom, Sleepy joins Christmas Tree and slopes mildly back to the midway station of Chair 15.

LUPIN . . . for intermediate skiers

Patrol rating: Easiest

Vertical drop: 100 feet

Length: 900 feet

A short, gentle slope that leads from the midway station of Chair 15 down to the parking lot at the base of the same chair.

CHICKADEE . . . for novice skiers

Patrol rating: Easiest

Vertical drop: 900 feet

Length: 4500 feet

A gentle, meandering trail leading from the top of Chair 8 down to the New Lodge. Along the way it crosses both Christmas Tree and Blue Jay before funneling into the open area in front of the lodge. Chickadee provides novice skiers an easy route down Chair 8.

GINGERBREAD

A gentle, access trail that leads from near the top of Chair 7 to the New Lodge.

Right Sleepy Hollow and Christmas Tree are both gentle, treelined runs like the one pictured here. They are ideal for novice skiers seeking relief from the crowds of the better known, more popular slopes.



SCORPION . . . for advanced-intermediate skiers

Patrol rating: More difficult

Vertical drop: 1700 feet

Length: 6000 feet

This run isn't as dangerous as it sounds. In fact, it's the easiest route down Chair 9 and is so long that it divides into the following sections:

Upper Scorpion

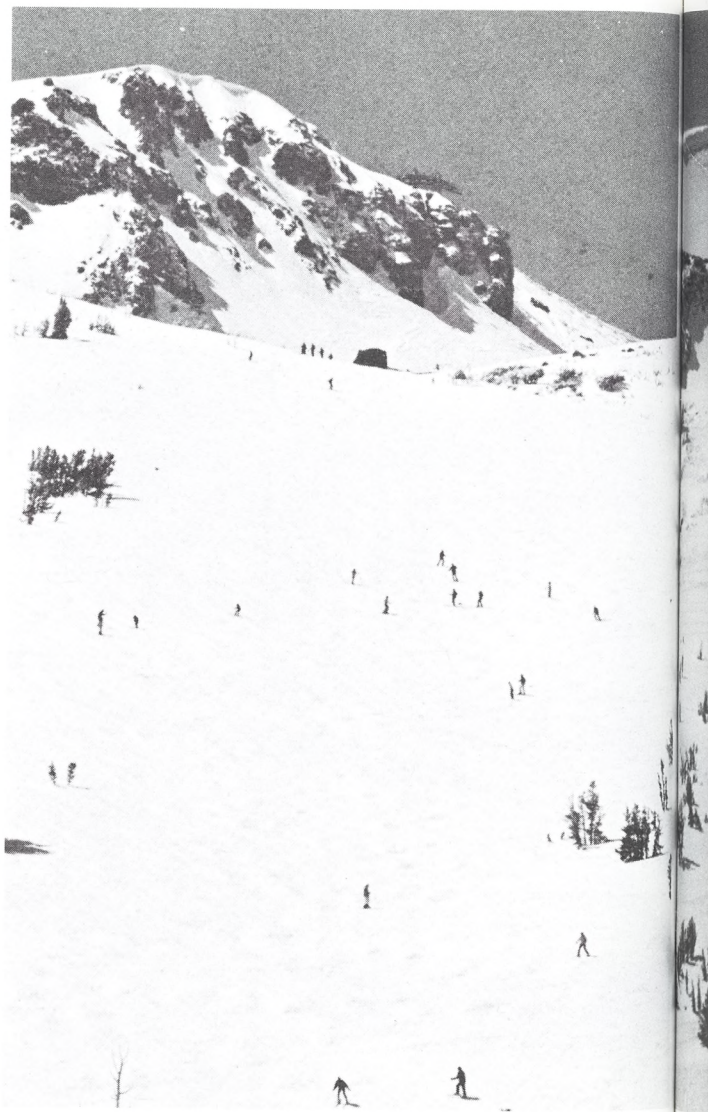
The top half consists of a huge, wide-open bowl extending down the right side of the chair. The bowl is moderately pitched and usually only lightly moguled. There is lots of room for turning or traversing. Near the bottom, the bowl gradually tapers into a trail-like slope where the lower half of Scorpion takes over.

Lower Scorpion

The bottom half consists of a long, narrow trail that twists and turns its way to the bottom of Chair 9. Occasional drop-offs and bumpy pitches add excitement and challenge.

Directions: Scorpion is accessible from two directions:

1. From the top of Chair 9 bear right and follow the long traverse that leads toward Chair 5. The first skiable opening to your right is Scorpion. Refer to map for location of traverse.
2. From the top of Chair 5. As you get off the lift, ski straight ahead a short distance. Scorpion will open to your left. See map.



The bowl at the top of Scorpion is wide and treeless, nothing at all like the narrow trail it eventually turns into.



Pictured above is a rare view of the Chair 9 and Cornice areas. The heavily mogulled slope in the middle is Upper Scorpion. To the extreme right is the top of Chair 5. Directly above Chair 5 is part of Climax — a well known Cornice run. Huevos Grandes is at top center followed by the popular Dave's Run (extreme left).



TARANTULA . . . for advanced skiers

Patrol rating: More difficult

Vertical drop: 1700 feet

Length: 6000 feet

Tarantula is the longest run on this side of Mammoth Mountain with over a mile of exciting and challenging terrain. It extends the entire length of Chair 9 and divides into the following sections:

Upper Tarantula

The top half consists of a huge, wide-open bowl offering an unlimited number of steep lines to the bottom (see map). The bowl is reached by traversing left from the top of the chair. The farther you traverse the steeper the bowl becomes. At the bottom, the bowl gradually funnels onto a wide, flat area that leads into the lower section.

Lower Tarantula

The lower half is much easier than the top. It is comprised of two trails that zig-zag gently across rolling terrain. One trail follows the chairline, while the other wanders through the trees on the far right (looking down). Both routes eventually lead to Chair 9.

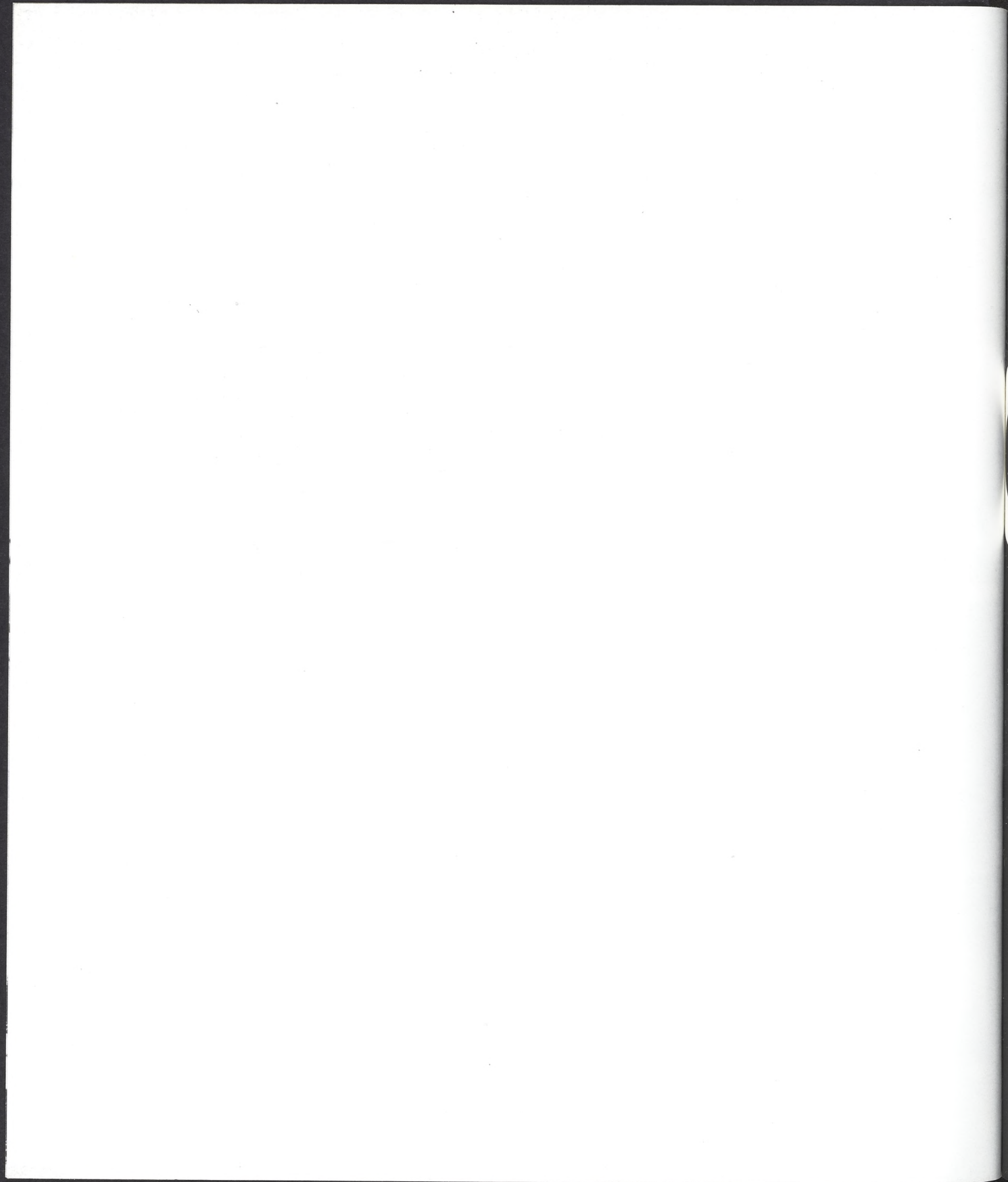
Note: Although Tarantula is skied in all snow conditions, it is best known for its fantastic powder during winter months (Dec.-Feb.) and its fabulous corn during spring (March-May).



Once out of Tarantula's upper bowl, one of the popular routes back to the chair is to ski under the lift.

Top left The large, bowl-shaped slope to the left of Chair 9 is commonly referred to as Tarantula. The lightly treed slope to the right of the chair is not heavily skied, but does offer excellent powder and corn snow skiing when the right conditions prevail. The shadowy lip at upper right is Dave's Run.

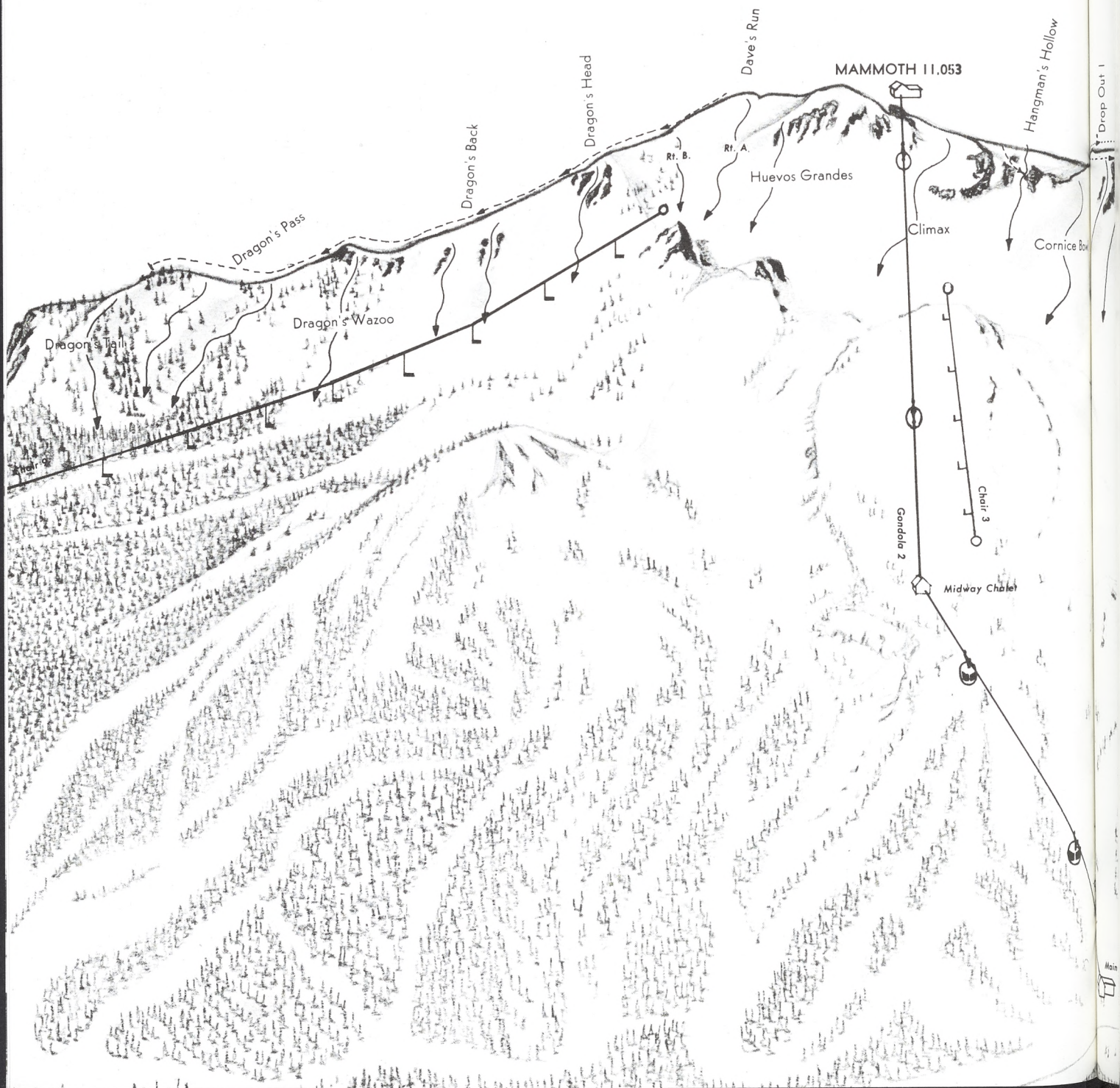
Bottom left From ground level the vastness of the Tarantula area is apparent. Note how the run changes from a steep bowl into moderate, rolling type terrain.

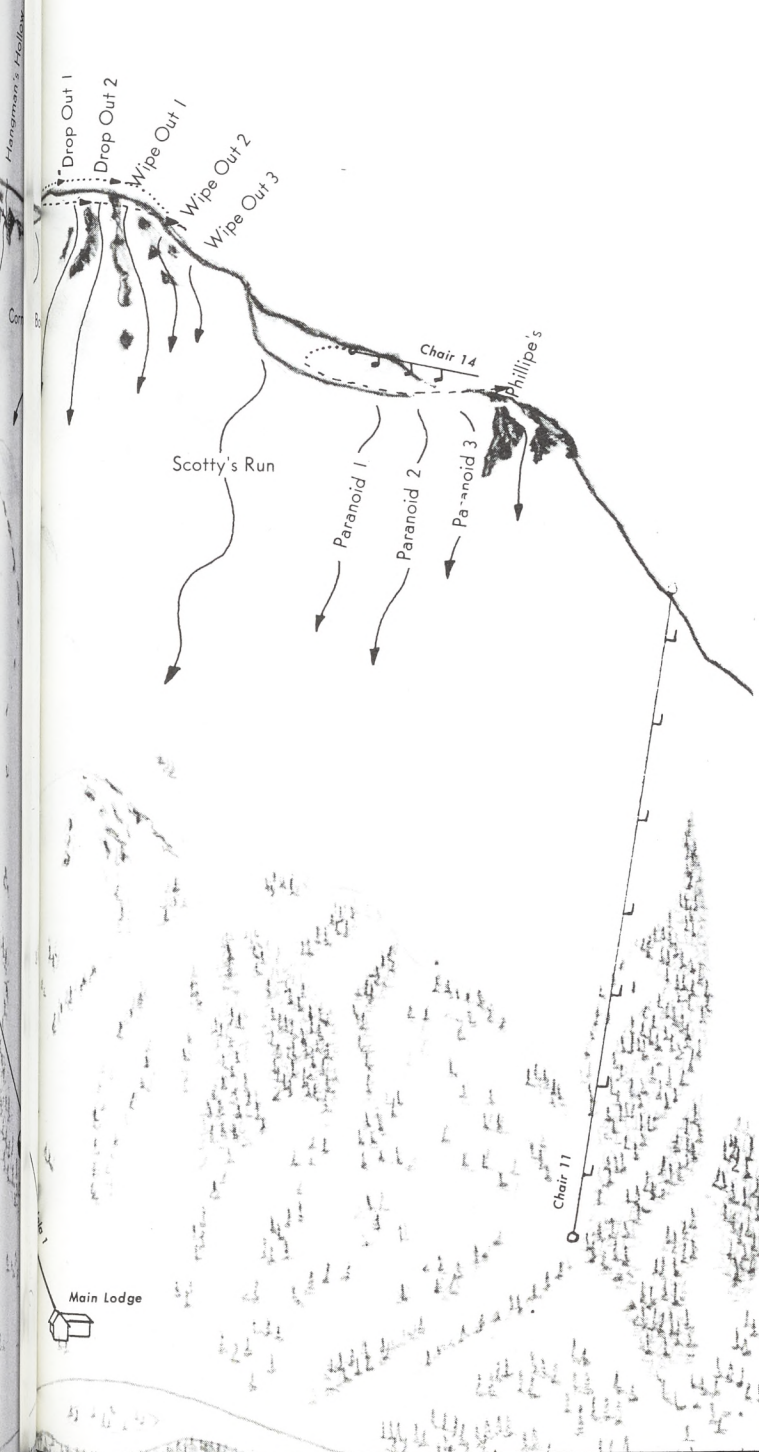


Cornice Area



Cornice Area





The Cornice is the top of Mammoth Mountain. It includes all the runs from Dragon's Tail on one end to Phillippe's on the other (see map pages 77 and 76). Between these two points can be found the steepest most challenging runs on the mountain. It is an area for advanced and expert skiers. There are no easy runs. Every slope is extremely demanding where a mistake can sometimes mean a long tumble to the bottom.

During storms the weather on the Cornice can be brutal. Fierce winds, blinding clouds, and extreme avalanche conditions usually force its closure. Once the storm passes and the slopes are cleared of any danger, some of the steepest powder skiing in all North America is available. Whether you're skiing the wide-open face of Dave's Run, or the bumps on Climax, the runs off the Cornice will test any skier's ability.

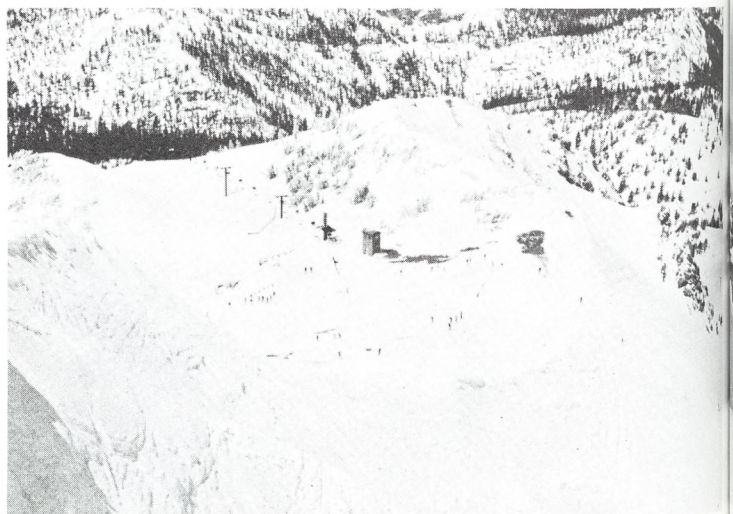
Directions: The Cornice Area is accessible from two directions:

1. The Main Lodge: Take the Gondola all the way to the top. Do not get off at the Midway Chalet. From the top, most of the runs are accessible via the trails that lead in either direction along the top.
2. Chair 14: From the top of Chair 14 a steep, uphill hike to the left brings you to the Cornice. From here only Scotty's Run, Paranoid Flats, and Phillippe's are accessible.

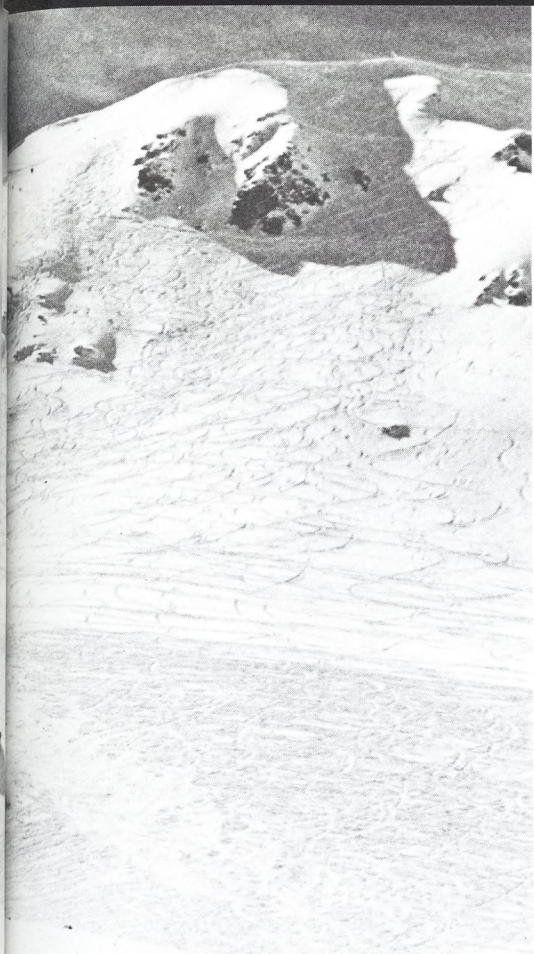


Top The Cornice as seen from the top of Chair 1. Most of the skiing is taking place in Cornice Bowl (center), while the Drop Out chutes (top right) have already been skied out.

From atop the Cornice, a wide, moderate slope leads to the runs. Skiers in foreground are contemplating the drop into Cornice Bowl.



A few of the Cornice runs are reached via Chair 14 (middle of photo). Picture was taken from atop Wipe Out 1 looking northwest.



The traverse into Cornice Bowl is steep and tricky. The rest is wide and roomy.



After a snowfall, the Mammoth powder hounds head for the Cornice chutes. Pictured above are Drop Out 1 and 2 already well tracked. Although these chutes are often skied from the top, many skiers prefer to traverse in from Cornice Bowl and takeoff from below the rocks. (as pictured here).



A Cornice classic . . . A huge storm has just passed and the entire Cornice is loaded with snow. There is not a single track visible from the Gondola Building (top left) all the way to Phillippe's (far right).

PHILLIPE'S . . . for experts only

Patrol Rating: Most difficult

Vertical drop: 600 feet

Length: 700 feet

Pitch: Max. 50° Min. 40°

A treacherous, rocklined chute located on the far west end of the Cornice. It is both critically steep and dangerously narrow. A fall here can mean a perilous slide into jagged rock outcroppings. Near the bottom, the chute doglegs sharply to the right and opens onto a wide face that drops smoothly toward either Chair 12 or St. Anton.

Directions: Phillippe's is reached by first hiking up to the Cornice from the top of Chair 14 and then following a high traverse across the Paranoid Flats area. The top of the chute is located in the rocks just beyond Paranoid #3. See map for location of traverse.

Note: The chute was first skied in 1966 by "Phillipe" Mallard and Dennis Agee. At that time getting atop the Cornice required long, exhausting hikes from the backside of Chair 3.

SCOTTY'S RUN . . . for advanced skiers

Patrol Rating: Most difficult

Vertical drop: 1200 feet

Length: 1500 feet

Pitch: Max. 40° Min. 35°

A massive, u-shaped slope extending from the Cornice all the way into St. Anton. Unlike the chutes, Scotty's is wide and open with ample room for sweeping turns across the fall-line. It is skied in all conditions, and when packed is one of the most popular runs off the Cornice.

Notes:

1. Although rated advanced, strong advanced-intermediate skiers will find this run within their capability.
2. The run is named for Clifford Owen Scott, who was killed here by an avalanche in 1967.

Directions: The top of this run can be reached from two directions:

1. The top of Chair 14. Requires a slight uphill hike to the edge of the Cornice. See map for location of hike.
2. The top of Gondola 2. Ski the Summer Road until it reaches a point just above Chair 14 and near the edge of the Cornice.



Phillipe's is but a tiny, thread-like opening between jagged rocks.



Phillipe's is so steep that a fall can mean a slide into those nasty looking rocks!

PARANOID FLATS 1, 2 & 3 . . . for expert skiers

Patrol rating: Most difficult

Vertical drop: 1200 feet

Length: 1600 feet

Pitch: Max. 40° Min. 35°

Three, radically steep, gulley-shaped avalanche slopes extending from atop the Cornice all the way into St. Anton. Slopes 1 and 2 are wide and open from top to bottom. Slope 3 is open at the top tapering into a narrow, rocklined chute at the bottom. These runs are skied mainly in fresh powder. Once the new snow has settled, it quickly turns to junk. The area is then usually avoided until the next snowfall.

Directions: The area is reached by first hiking up to the Cornice from the top of Chair 14. Once at the top, a high, left traverse will lead to the three slopes.

WIPE OUT 1, 2 & 3 . . . for expert skiers

Patrol rating: Most difficult

Vertical drop: 1200 feet

Length: 1500 feet

Pitch: #1 . . . Max. 40° Min. 35°

#2 . . . Max. 47° Min. 35°

#3 . . . not available

A series of three, radically steep, avalanche chutes located in the rocks between Cornice Bowl and Scotty's Run. They are skied mainly in the powder and rarely become packed. Wipe Out 1 and 2 are the longest and most popular. Wipe Out 3 is short, rocky, and not often skied. Below the rocks, the chutes open onto a wide, concave slope that drops into St. Anton.

Caution: Once the new snow has been tracked it rapidly turns to junk. These runs are then usually avoided until the next snowfall.

Directions: These chutes can be entered from two directions:

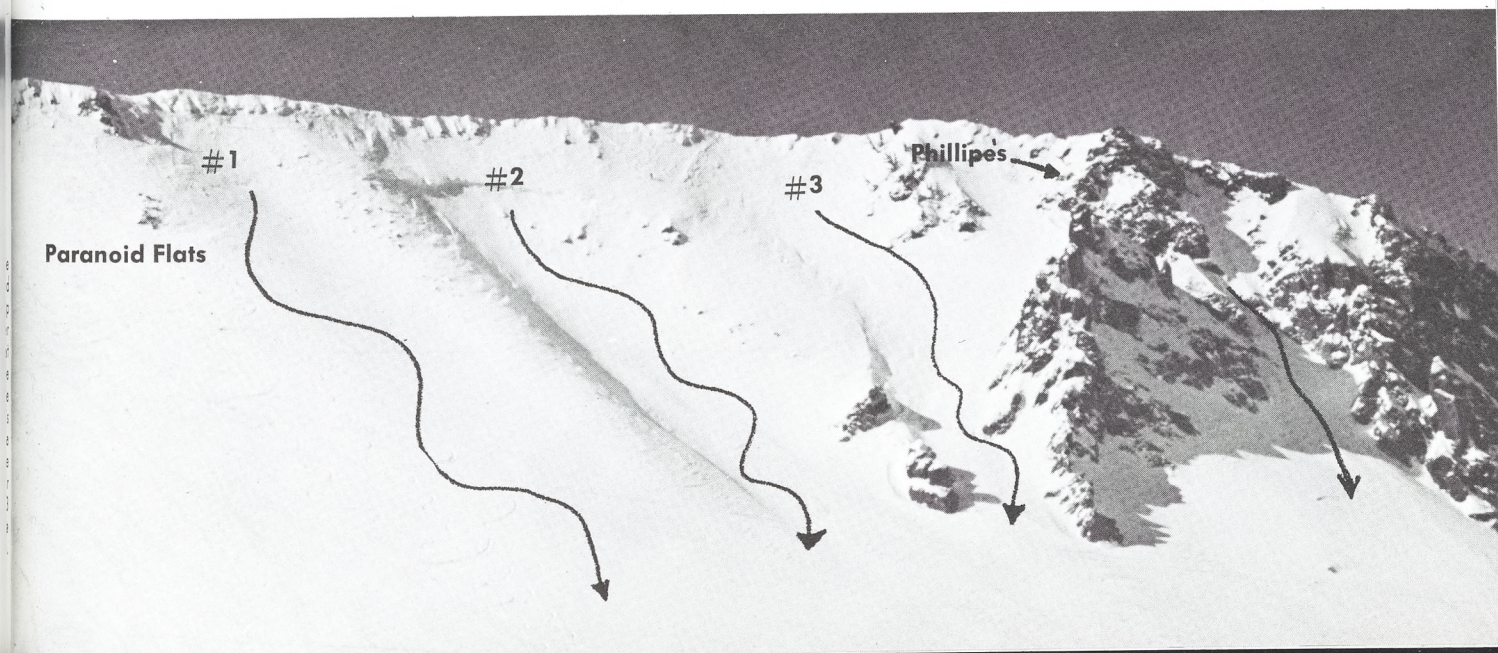
1. From the very top. The steepest and most difficult. To get there requires a long, uphill hike from Cornice Bowl, then a hair-raising drop off a snow lip. See map for location of the hike.

2. From a traverse. An easier entry is from a low traverse which brings you in below the top. To get there, first traverse into Cornice Bowl staying high and just under the lip. Continue on traverse until you have passed Drop Out 1 and 2. The Wipe Out chutes are next. See map for location of traverse.



One of the best times to ski Wipe Out 1 is right after a fresh snowfall.

Pictured on the next page are three views of the Paranoid Flats area. Photo at the top right is chute 3 with a tiny skier carving his way down. Photo at top left is a side view with the Minarets towering in the background. Photo at bottom is all three chutes shortly after a snowfall. To get an idea of the area's vastness, note skier standing between chute 2 and 3 (bottom photo) just below the top of Cornice.



DROP OUT 1 & 2 . . . for expert skiers

Patrol rating: Most difficult

Vertical drop: 1200 feet

Length: 1500 feet

Pitch: #1 Max. 40° Min. 35°

#2 Max. 44° Min. 35°

Two outrageously steep avalanche chutes located in the rocks between Cornice Bowl and Scotty's Run. Drop Out 1 is short, narrow, and oftentimes rocky. It can be extremely dangerous at times and is therefore rarely skied. Drop Out 2 is the more popular of the two. It's long and comfortably wide with lots of room for turning. Below the rocks both chutes open onto a broad, concave slope that drops into St. Anton.

Note: Both chutes are skied mainly in the powder. It is usually not until late in the year that they become packed.

Directions: Both chutes can be entered from two directions:

1. From the top. The steepest and most difficult entry. To get there requires a long, uphill hike from Cornice Bowl and then a hair-raising drop off a snow lip. See map for location of hike.
2. An easier entry is from a low traverse which brings you in well below the top. To get there, first traverse into Cornice Bowl staying high and just under the lip. Continue on traverse until Drop Out 1 opens up on your right. Drop Out 2 is next. See map for location of traverse.

CORNICE BOWL . . . for advanced skiers

Patrol rating: More difficult

Vertical drop: 900 feet

Length: 1400 feet

Pitch: Max. 40° Min. 30°

Of all the runs leading off the Cornice, Cornice Bowl is considered the easiest and is therefore the most popular. The only really difficult section is the entry which requires a spine-tingling, high-speed traverse below an overhanging snow lip (see photo). Hesitant skiers and fallen comrades add to the suspense.

Once into the bowl, the rest of the run consists of a wide-open, moderately pitched slope that drops smoothly into St. Anton. Large, chopped-up moguls sometimes blanket the entire bowl area adding yet another dimension to an already breath-taking run.

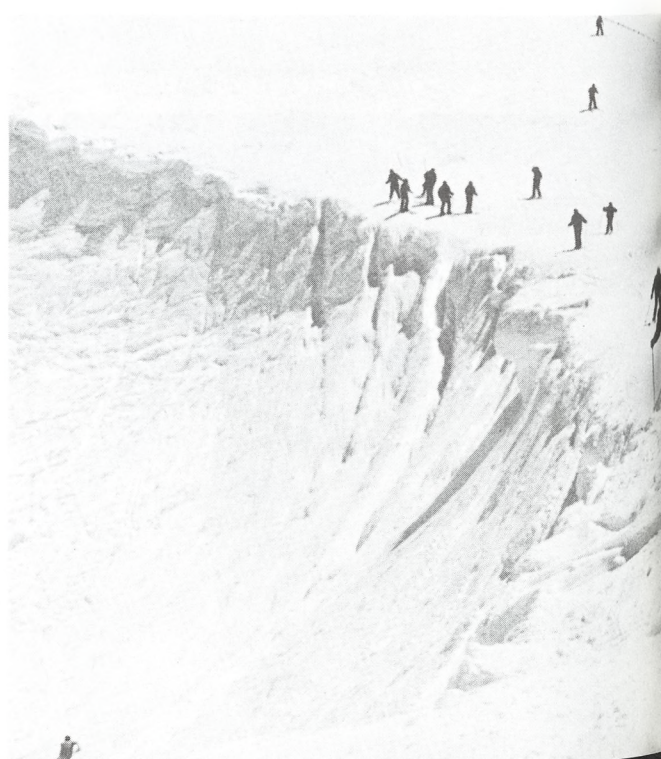
Note: Although rated advance, advanced-intermediates will find Cornice Bowl challenging but not impossible.

Far Right

On Mammoth Mountain it's the earlybird who gets the powder.

Deep ruts and fallen skiers adds to the suspense of the drop into Cornice Bowl.

Bottom right Cornice Bowl at its best — bright sunshine, light traffic, and perfect snow conditions.





HANGMAN'S HOLLOW . . . for expert skiers

Patrol rating: Most difficult

Vertical drop: 1000 feet

Length: 1300 feet

Pitch: Max. 55° Min. 50°

One of the steepest and most treacherous chutes on the mountain. From the top it's like looking down from a skyscraper. Towering rocks line both sides restricting turning radius to a limited area. A fall up here can mean a twisting, bodywrenching slide all the way into St. Anton.

Directions: There are two entrances into Hangman's:

1. From the top. This is the steepest and most terrifying. It requires an almost vertical drop off the cornice lip and a series of quick, tight turns.
2. From a traverse. A short traverse from the right side (looking down) leads into the chute. It is still steep and critical, but below the lip mentioned above.

Warning: This run is extremely dangerous and should be skied by experts only.

CLIMAX . . . for advanced skiers

Patrol rating: Most difficult

Vertical drop: 1000 feet

Length: 1400 feet

Pitch: Max. 45° Min. 40°

A long, precipitous slope located directly below Gondola 2 as it nears the top of Mammoth Mountain. The entry is extremely critical requiring a breath-taking drop off the edge of the Cornice (see photo). The rest of the run consists of a wide, steeply pitched slope that drops sharply into the canyon below.

Warning: This run can be very dangerous. Jagged fangs of rock poke through the snow about halfway down the left side (looking down). A fall in this area can have frightening results. To avoid this, choose a route farther to the right. It may be steeper but at least if you fall you'll slide over snow not rocks!



Above Hangman's Hollow is one of the steepest chutes on the mountain. Just getting below the lip (top of photo) is a feat in itself.



Top The steepest entry into Climax is from the top. An easier way is to traverse in from the side.

Bottom Hangman's is a narrow opening in the rocks between the Cornice and St. Anton.



Climax (above) is one of the more popular runs off the Cornice. But don't let this picture fool you. It's super steep and those rocks sticking out of the snow must be avoided.



Unlike many of the Cornice runs, Dave's is wide-open. No rocks or trees to hinder your progress. Just a steep, open face from top to bottom.

HUEVOS GRANDES . . . for expert skiers

Patrol rating: Most difficult

Vertical drop: 1000 feet

Length: 1400 feet

Pitch: Max. 52° Min. 45°

Tucked away in the rocks between Climax and Dave's Run is another dangerous avalanche chute. The top is not only radically steep, but so narrow that at times you must actually stop and pick your way through the rocks. A fall up here can have severe results. Below the rocks, the chute opens onto a broad face that drops swiftly into the ravine below.

Caution: Because of the chute's position to the prevailing wind, it rarely accumulates much snow. Extreme caution and judgment should be used before ever attempting this run.

DAVE'S RUN . . . for advanced skiers

Patrol rating: Most difficult

Vertical drop: 900 feet

Length: 1300 feet

Pitch: Max. 45° Min. 40°

A wide-open, treeless slope named after the man who started Mammoth Mountain—Dave McCoy. The run is radically steep at the top, gradually lessening in pitch as it nears the bottom. It ends a short distance from the top of Chair 9.

Directions: There are two lines to the bottom: Route A: The steepest and most difficult. Requires a cliff-like drop off a snow lip followed by a long, steep face.

Route B: An easier way down. A moderately pitched slope that begins above a small clump of trees and ends at the top of Chair 9. See map for their exact location.

Caution: Route A is so steep that a fall usually means a fast, twisting slide to the bottom.



Huevos Grandes is not for everyone. Not only is it steep, but a mistake at the top can have disasterous results.

Dragon's Area

The section of the Cornice east of Dave's Run is commonly referred to as the Dragon's Area. It is so named because of the dragon-like shape the ridgeline forms as it slopes eastward. Although the area has vast skiing potential, it is today remote and undeveloped. The few named runs are so steep and undefined that they are rarely skied. The Dragon's Area is for experts and experts only.

Directions . . . Since no lift services the area, getting to the top is quite involved. From the top of Gondola II (the Cornice) follow the trail that leads to Dave's Run. Continue east past Dave's, staying at all times on the trail-like slope that follows the Cornice. Each of the Dragon runs will open on your left and drop abruptly into Tarantula. The trail continues eastward until it ends in heavy trees near the end of the Cornice.

DRAGON'S HEAD . . . for expert skiers

Patrol rating: Most difficult
Vertical drop: 1000 feet
Length: 1400 feet

The steepest and most treacherous of all the Dragon chutes. Towering rock sidewalls and a steep snow lip make the first 2-3 turns extremely critical. Below the rocks the run opens onto a wide-open face that drops sharply into Tarantula.

Warning: This chute is so steep and dangerous that it is rarely skied. A mistake up here means a fast, bone-jarring slide to the bottom.

Directions: Read introduction to the Dragon Area.

DRAGON'S BACK . . . for experts only

Patrol rating: Most difficult
Vertical drop: 1200 feet
Length: 1600 feet

A series of steep, isolated slopes skied almost exclusively by experts seeking the thrill of untracked powder. The initial drop off the cornice is unbelievably critical. But after only a few turns the runs open onto a wide face that drops swiftly into Tarantula.

Warning: A mistake anywhere in these runs means a fast, spinning slide to the bottom.

Directions: The tops of these runs are accessible only from the Cornice. Read the introduction to the Dragon's Area for a detailed description.



The large, rocklined chute pictured above is called Dragon's Head. It is so steep and narrow that it is rarely skied.

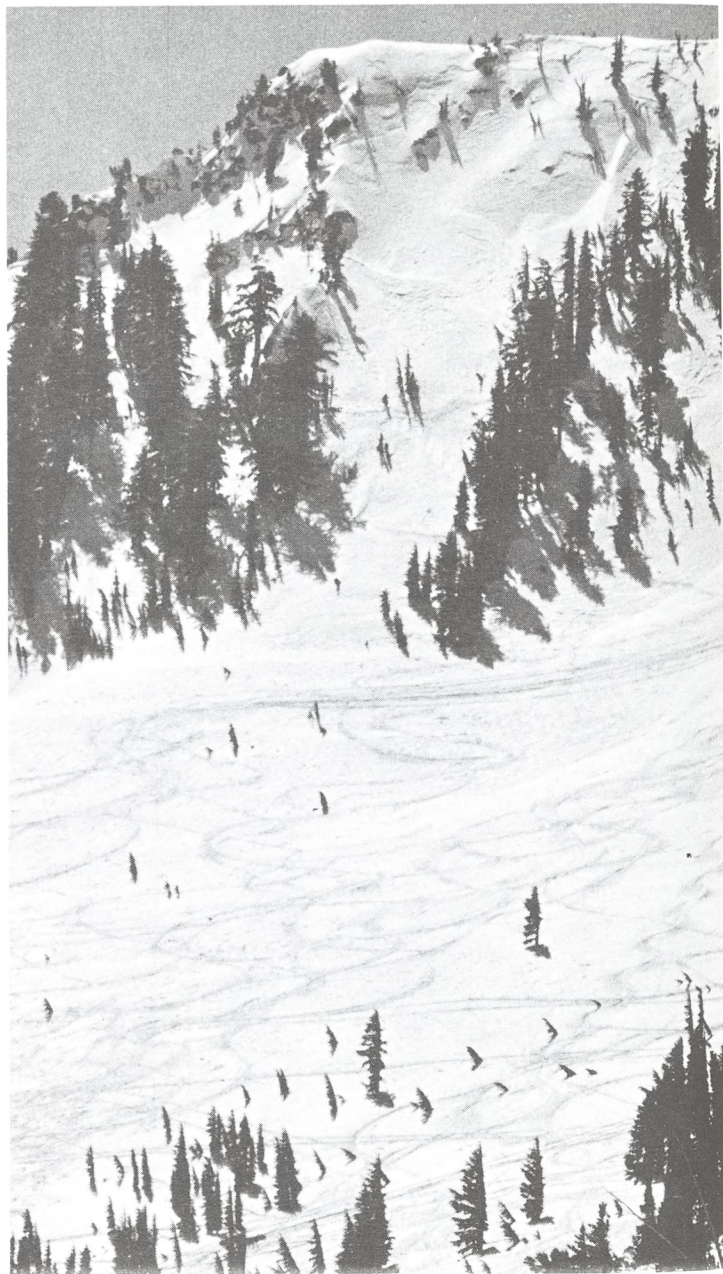


Top The area east of Dave's Run (slope at upper right) is called the Dragon's Area. All of the Dragon slopes begin atop the Cornice and drop into Tarantula. Chair 9 is visible at bottom of photo.

Bottom The terrain in the Dragon's Area is steep and raw. Here, a lone skier carves across hard, crusty windslab amid rocks and trees.



For the adventurous powder skier, Dragon's Pass offers all kinds of potential. After each snowfall acres of virgin powder await discovery.



Most of the terrain in the Dragon's Area is ideal for powder skiing. But it's steep and should be skied only by experts and never alone.

DRAGON'S WAZOO . . . for expert skiers

Patrol rating: Most difficult

Vertical drop: 1000 feet

Length: 1400 feet

A long, isolated slope so remote that it is rarely skied and then only by adventurous experts seeking untracked powder. It begins as a short, incredibly steep, avalanche chute then opens onto a broad face with lots of room for wide, sweeping powder turns. About half way down, the run moves into gentle, lightly treed, rolling terrain that gradually leads to Chair 9.

Directions: Read introduction to the Dragon's Area.

DRAGON'S PASS . . . for advanced skiers

Patrol rating: Most difficult

Vertical drop: 900 feet

Length: 1400 feet

A long, isolated powder slope that often rewards the adventurous skier with quiet runs through untracked snow. The upper half consists of a steep, wide-open bowl. As the slope descends, the pitch lessens considerably while the terrain becomes heavily wooded. Intense concentration and precise powder technique are a must throughout the lower half. At the bottom Dragon's Pass intersects Tarantula and both end with a long schuss to Chair 9.

Directions: For directions on how to get to the top of this run read the introduction to the Dragon's Area.

DRAGON'S TAIL . . . for experts only

Patrol rating: Most difficult

Vertical drop: 800 feet

Length: 1300 feet

A not often skied powder slope located on the remote east end of the Cornice. The run is so steep and heavily wooded that even the most adventurous of experts rarely venture into the area.

Directions: Read the introduction to the Dragon's Area.

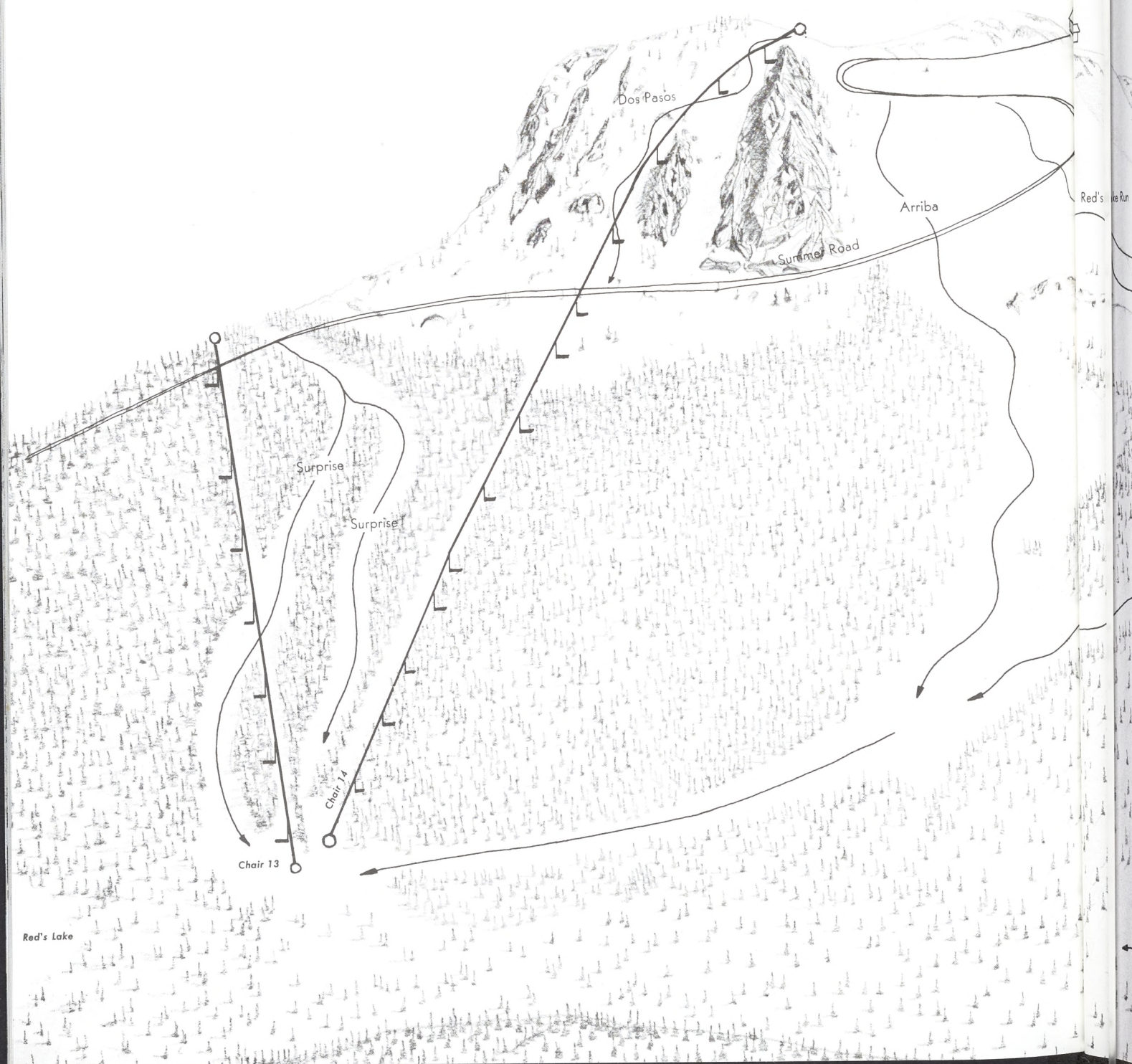


Fresh powder doesn't last long on Mammoth Mountain. Within a few hours it's well carved up.

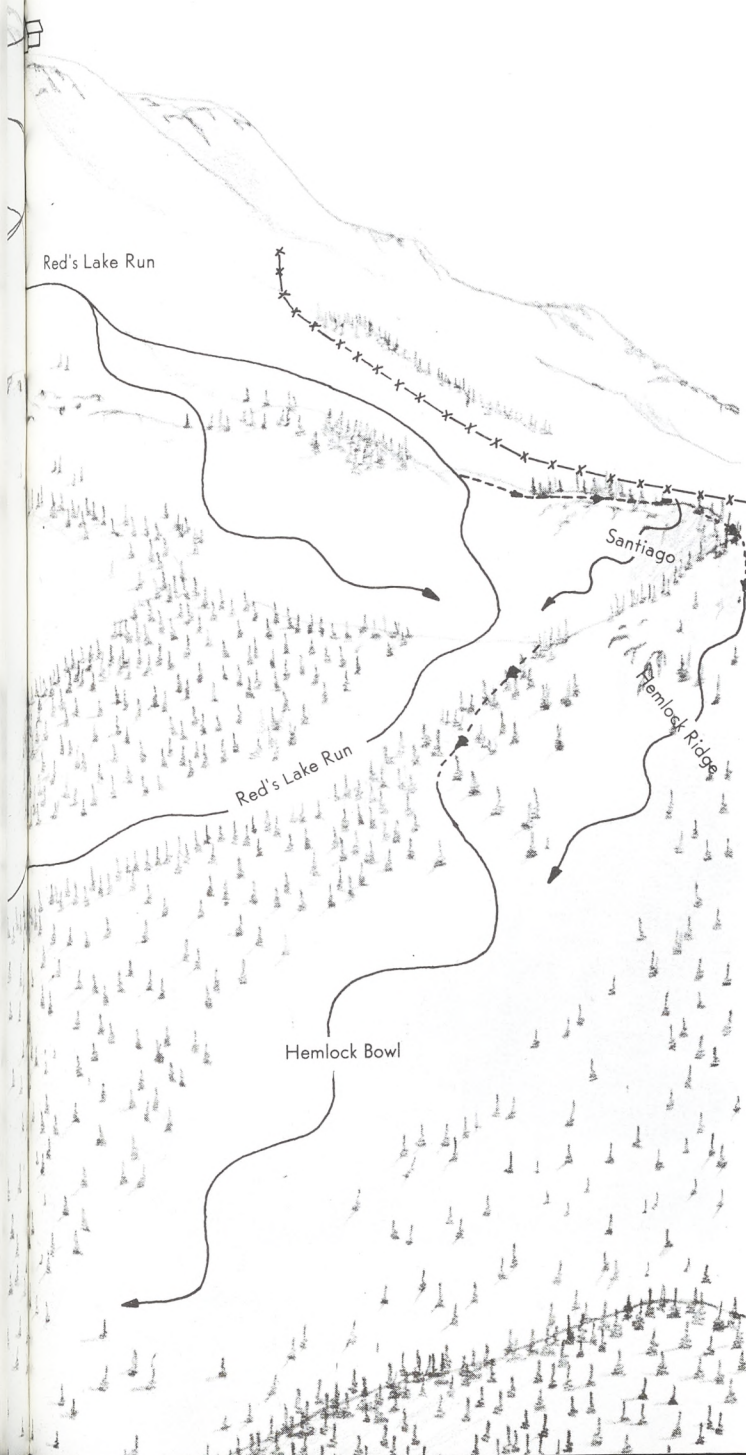


Backside Area





side Area



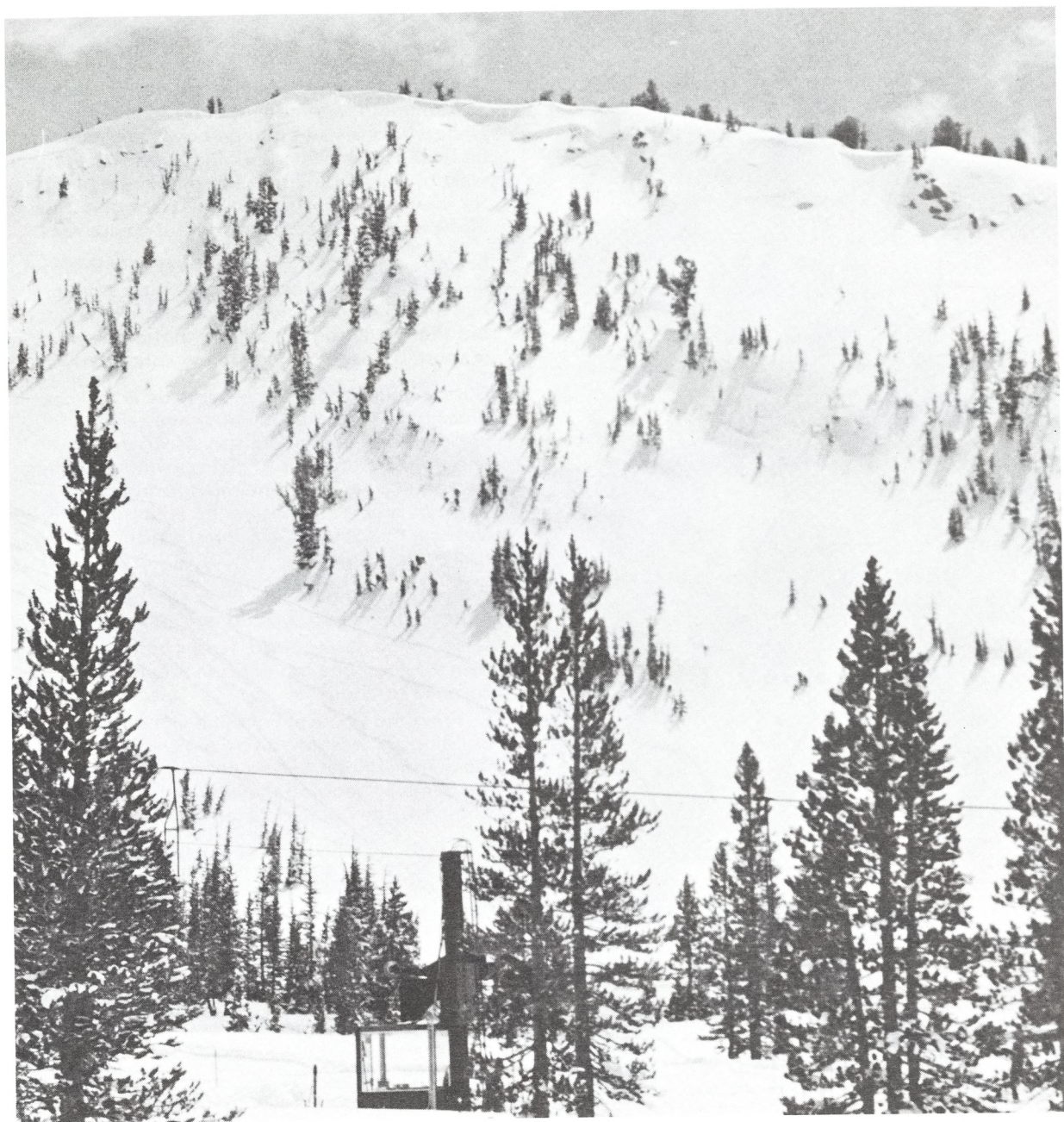
The Backside Area is one of the newest sections of Mammoth Mountain opened for skiing. The area consists of a huge bowl bordered on the east by White Bark Ridge and on the west by Hemlock Ridge. The runs are mainly for intermediate to advanced skiers with only a few expert slopes. There are no novice runs.

Because the area faces northwest, it is in direct line of the fierce, bonechilling winter storms. Not only does it receive its fair share of snow, but the winds can get so bad that the area is usually closed during stormy conditions.

During good weather the Backside is the place to be. The area is not heavily skied (usually) and is an ideal spot for those wanting lots and lots of skiing without waiting in long liftlines. But remember, bring a lunch or snack. There is yet no eating facility closeby, and it's a 10-15 minute trip to the Main Lodge.

Directions: The Backside Area can be reached from two directions.

1. From the Main Lodge. Take Chair 11 then 12. From the top of Chair 12 ski down Surprise to Chair 14.
2. From the Cornice. From the Gondola building ski west towards Cornice Bowl until the Summer Road begins on your left. Follow the Summer Road all the way to the top of Chair 14. The Backside Area is now all yours.



HEMLOCK RIDGE . . . for expert skiers

Patrol rating: Most difficult

Vertical drop: 800 feet

Length: 1100 feet

Pitch: Max. 47°

A series of powder chutes located in a remote, rarely skied section of the Backside. No lift services this area and getting to the top of Hemlock Ridge requires a long, strenuous, uphill hike from Santiago (see map). Once atop the ridge any number of chutes can be skied. All are treacherously steep and drop abruptly into Hemlock Bowl.

Caution: This area is extremely isolated and should be skied only by experts accompanied by someone familiar with the terrain.

HEMLOCK BOWL . . . for advanced-intermediate skiers

Patrol rating: More difficult

Vertical drop: 300 feet

Length: 1000 feet

Tucked away in an isolated corner of the Backside is the rarely skied Hemlock Bowl. It's a wide-open, moderately pitched slope that is skied primarily in powder. At the bottom, the run funnels onto a flat area requiring a short walk to Chairs 13 and 14.

Directions: To get to Hemlock Bowl requires a short, high traverse from a point $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way down Red's Lake Run. See map for location of the traverse.

Caution: The snow on this run is usually heavy and junky. Most skiers will find it extremely difficult to get down.



Left Hemlock Ridge (top of photo) towers above Chair 14 and offers steep powder skiing. The slope below is Hemlock Bowl which also offers good powder skiing, although not nearly as steep or as remote as the ridge.

The Backside Area has excellent slopes for powder skiing. But within a few hours the snow will be tracked, and before the day is over well packed.

SANTIAGO . . . for advanced skiers

Patrol rating: More difficult

Vertical drop: 250 feet

Length: 400 feet

A short, super steep face that begins atop a small ridge and drops swiftly into Red's Lake Run. It is skied in all snow conditions and serves as an excellent test slope for those interested in skiing the Cornice.

Caution: The red markers found in the area denote the ski area boundary. Under no circumstances ski beyond these signs.

Directions: The run is reached by a short traverse from Red's Lake Run. See map for its location.

RED'S LAKE RUN . . . for advanced-intermediate skiers

Patrol rating: More difficult

Vertical drop: 1000 feet

Length: 4600 feet

For those not quite up to the steep of Arriba, Red's Lake Run offers an easier route down the Backside. The run begins on the open, treeless slope at the top of Chair 14 and winds gently into the valley below. Along the way, it branches into several trails, each consisting of a series of gulleys, mogully pitches, and easy flats. Near the bottom, the run intersects Arriba and ends with an easy schuss to Chairs 13 and 14.

Note: The run is named after a small lake (Red's Lake) located just a stone's throw from Chairs 13 and 14 (see map). The lake was named for "Red Soutcher," who sold vegetables and mules to the miners during the early days of Mammoth.



Top The Backside Area is a large bowl bordered by Hemlock Ridge and White Bark Ridge.

Bottom Signs must be heeded. Skiing beyond them can have disastrous results.



The storm clouds are just beginning to break up and already Santiago has been tracked by eager powder hounds. The ridge on right leads up to Hemlock Ridge.

ARRIBA . . . for advanced-intermediate skiers

Patrol rating: More difficult

Vertical drop: 1000 feet

Length: 3500 feet

Of the two runs leading down the Backside, Arriba is the most difficult. The top consists of a steep, wide-open face with lots of room for sweeping turns across the fall-line. Half way down, the slope tapers into a long, narrow gulley requiring a reduction in speed and tight, controlled turns. The gulley is usually blanketed with large, chopped-up moguls which most skiers will find difficult. Near the bottom, the run intersects with Red's Lake Run and both end in an easy schuss back to the chair.

DOS PASOS . . . for advanced skiers

Patrol rating: Most difficult

Vertical drop:

Length:

Two radically steep, rock infested chutes located below Chair 14. Because of their direct exposure to the strong northwest winds, these runs are usually too bare to ski safely. Only during a very heavy snow, or a northeast wind (see note) will they be skiable. This usually happens only once or twice a year and sometimes not at all.

Note: Northeast winds strike Mammoth Mountain on the frontside. This causes snow to blow up and over the Cornice filling normally bare spots with lots and lots of snow.

SURPRISE . . . for advanced-intermediate skiers

Patrol rating: More difficult

Vertical drop: 400 feet

Length: 2500 feet

A short but challenging run that serves as an access path for skiers heading from Chair 12 to Chair 14. It starts out wide and gentle at the top then splits into two narrow, mogully trails. Both lead directly to Chairs 13 and 14.

Note: The name originates from the "surprisingly" steep pitch found at the bottom of the left hand trail (looking down).

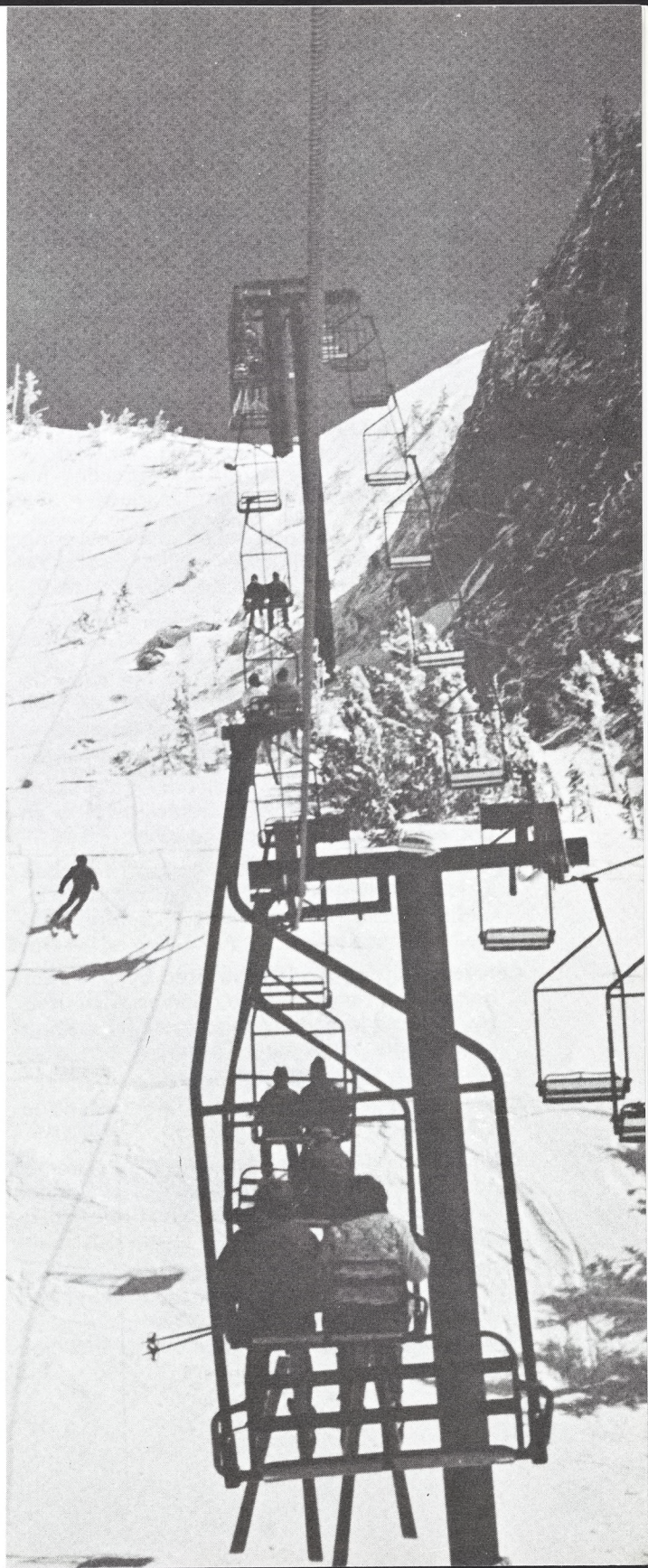
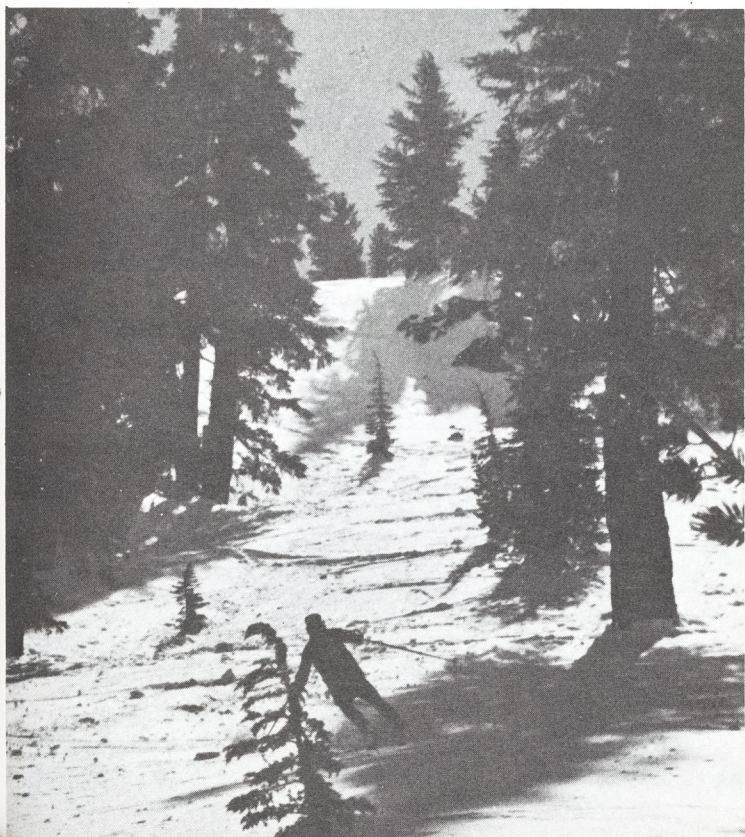
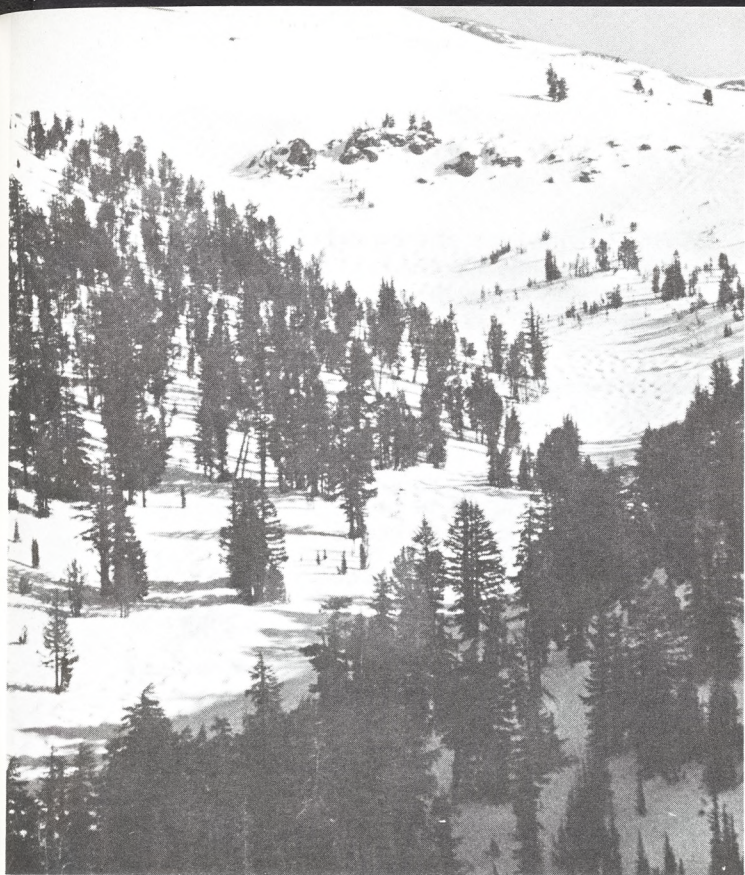
Far Right Although rarely skiable, Dos Pasos can become a steep, challenging slope.

Bottom Right The Backside has lots of secret spots where untracked powder awaits. Seek and ye shall find.

Right Huge moguls blanket Arriba from top to bottom. Zig-zag line at top is the Summer Road.

Below The bottom half of Surprise is surprisingly steep and usually bumpy. Spectator is aboard Chair 13.





Glossary...

Alpine Skiing: Down mountain skiing. In competition, alpine skiing consists of downhill, giant slalom, and slalom.

Avalanche: A large mass of snow or ice detached from a mountain slope and sliding downward. From the French word "avalier" meaning to swallow which is expressive of most skiers fears.

Avalement: A type of skiing technique. Derived from the action of a skier as he swallows up irregularities in the terrain by retracting his legs to stay in contact with the snow.

Base: The layer of hardpacked snow covering the bare ground. Or a fresh fall of new snow that becomes part of a new, higher base.

Bowl: A dished out ski area between two ridges. Slopes uphill on both sides.

Breakable Crust: A condition of the snow in which the surface freezes into a crust with loose snow underneath. Frequently encountered after a warm wind on new snow.

Bumps: Mounds of snow created by many skiers turning in the same spot. Creates a valley on one side and a bump on the other.

Can-Am: A series of alpine ski races conducted in North America among American and Canadian racers who are not in Europe with their national teams.

Cat-track: A man-made road used by skiers for getting from one place to another. Also used by sno-cats (grooming machines) for getting around the mountain. Cat-tracks can also double as lanes and trails.

Christy turn: A sliding or skidding turn as in stem christy or parallel christy.

Chute: A narrow, confined area usually extremely steep and rocklined on two sides. Natural areas for avalanches. Oftentimes referred to as "avalanche chutes."

Cornice: A steep snow projection. Caused by wind blowing onto the backside of a hill and building up snow on the opposite side. Should be considered dangerous as they can break off and cause a slide.

Corn snow: A type of snow occurring mainly in the springtime. Continuous heating and freezing breaks down the old snow into slippery, pea-shaped granules. It's like skiing in marbles.

Counter-slope: Any slope that faces another slope. A gulley has two counterslopes.

Crud snow: A type of snow usually found about mid-day on the lightly used or partially packed runs. It can be heavy or light depending on the moisture content.

Double fall-line: Common term used to refer to a slope with two fall-lines. One straight down the hill and one down the side of the hill.

Drop-off: Any mound of snow (lip, cornice, or jump) that causes you to lose contact with the snow.

Face: The side or part of a mountain most frequently seen.

Fall-line: The shortest line down a slope. The line that a freely moving object such as a ball or water would follow if influenced only by gravity. The path of least resistance.

Gate: An arrangement of two flags or poles which a skier must pass through in a race.

Glade skiing: Skiing through trees spaced far enough apart to allow use of regular technique.

Groom: To knock down the bumps, chop the ice or pack the snow. Whatever is needed to improve skiing conditions.

G.S. (giant slalom) turns: Wide radius turns across the fall-line. The type turn seen in giant slalom racing.

Gulley: A channel worn in the earth by a current of water. A confined area with slopes on both sides.

Gelandesprung: From the German word meaning "terrain jump." An ariel maneuver in order to clear a rock, bare spot, or terrain irregularity. Today it refers to an ariel stunt where skiers compete for distance and or style.

Hardpack snow: Snow that has become compacted by either heavy use or by machine. Considered the easiest type snow to ski on. In Europe, a slope with this type snow is called a piste.

Junk snow: Wet, heavy, cut-up, crusty, or sun rotted snow. Extremely difficult to ski on.

Lane: A fixed, well defined passageway between two points on the mountain. Can be narrow, wide, twisty, or straight.

Line: The route or path you choose to ski a run. It's wherever you leave ski tracks.

Lip: Same as cornice. See above.

Mashed Potatoes: A soft, heavy, wet type snow caused by exposure to the sun for long periods of time. Difficult to ski and nearly impossible to walk through.

Moguls: Same as bumps. See above.

Overhang: Same as cornice. See above.

Pitch: The degree of steepness or inclination to a slope.

Piste: The term used in European countries to describe a hard packed slope or trail.

Powder snow: A light, fluffy type snow created under cold and dry conditions.

Ridge: A long, usually narrow upper edge or crest of a hill.

Runout: A flat, usually long section of a run which gives skiers room to check speed, slow up, or stop.

Ruts: Deep grooves or tracks in the snow. Made by numerous skiers moving across the same area. As in slalom racing.

Schuss: To ski a straight path down a hill or run. Can be at high or low speed depending on steepness of the slope.

Short swing: The execution of a series of short radius turns in the fall-line with only a slight traverse between turns. Consecutive parallel christies. Control is maintained by angulation and edging.

Sitzmark: A hole in the snow made by a skier's fall.

Slalom: From the Norwegian word meaning "sloping track." A serpentine ski run through and around sets of flags.

Snowplow turn: An elementary method of turning ones skis. Accomplished by putting more weight on one ski than the other.

Steilhang: An unusually steep drop-off. A noticeable change in the steepness of a slope.

Stem turn: A snowplow turn with a traverse before and after each turn.

Trail: A narrow ski run where turning is limited to a small area. Trails are common to eastern ski resorts.

Transition: A change in the pitch of the terrain. Can be from flat to steep or steep to flat.

Traverse: Skiing an angle across the fall-line.

Traverse cut: A term used when referring to the condition of moguls that have been cut-up by skiers traversing the fall-line. Moguls with sharp cliffs and ledges instead of round, smooth sides.

Traverse tracks: Marks left in the snow by numerous skiers angling across a hill. Can be difficult to handle if deep enough.

Tracks: The marks left by skis. As in the phrase "first tracks" meaning the first marks in powder snow.

Wedeln: From the Austrian word for "tailwagging." Compresses the parallel turn into a series of quick but graceful arcs close to the fall-line. The ultimate in skiing. Pronounced vay-dlen.

Wind ridge: A drop-off or cliff-like structure created by the wind carrying snow from one place to another. Excellent for jumping.

Wind slab/wind crust: Snow that has been compacted by wind into a hard top layer with loose, powdery snow underneath. Must be skied without use of edges, for a sudden movement can send you plunging through the crust.

Credits

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Printing: Tivoli Printing Company, Los Angeles, California.

Special Thanks: To all persons involved in the research, and development of this book. And to Gary Berger for allowing us to use the old photo of Mammoth found in the beginning of this book. And to the Mammoth Mountain Ski Area whose cooperation and help made this book possible.



03.66.05